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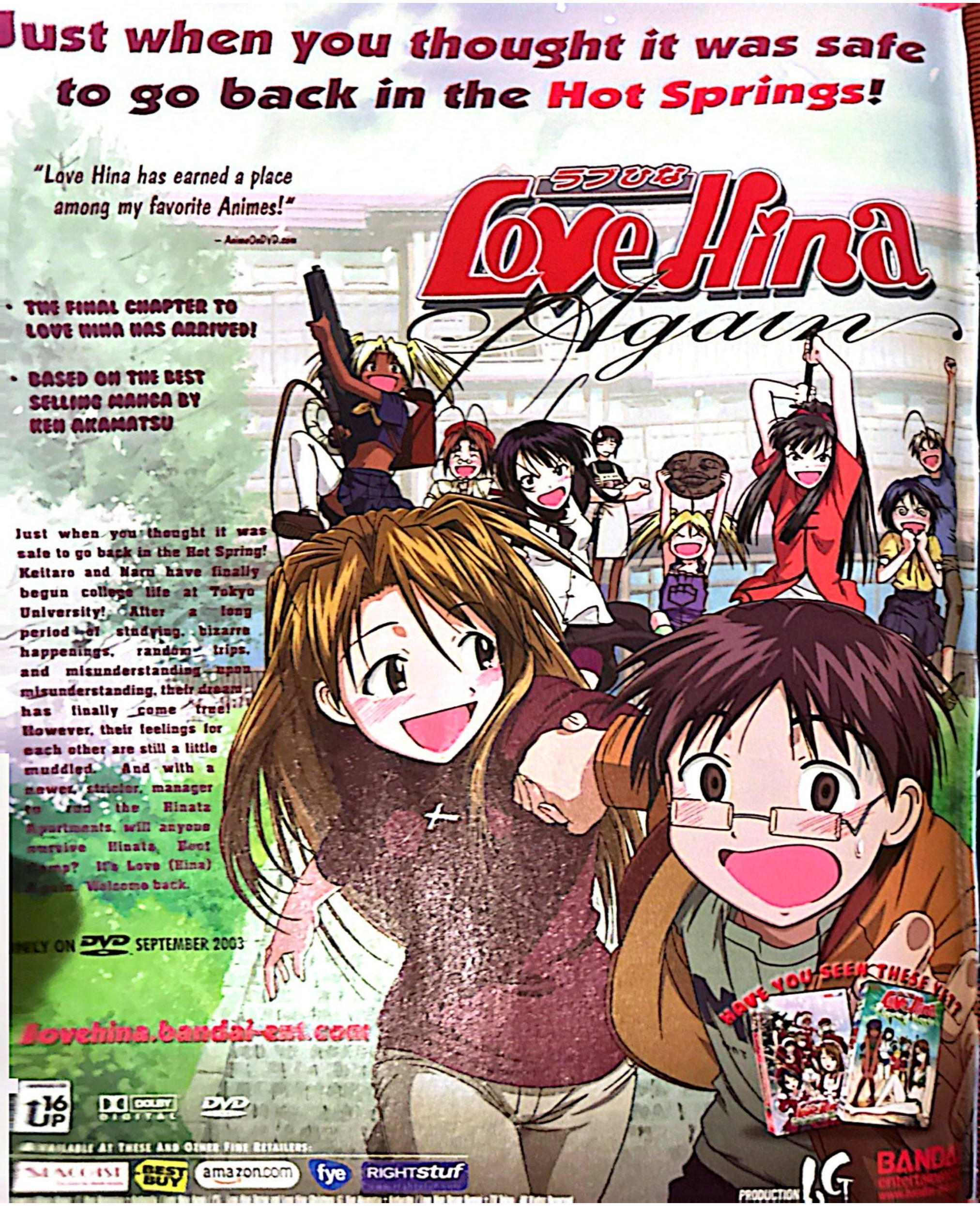
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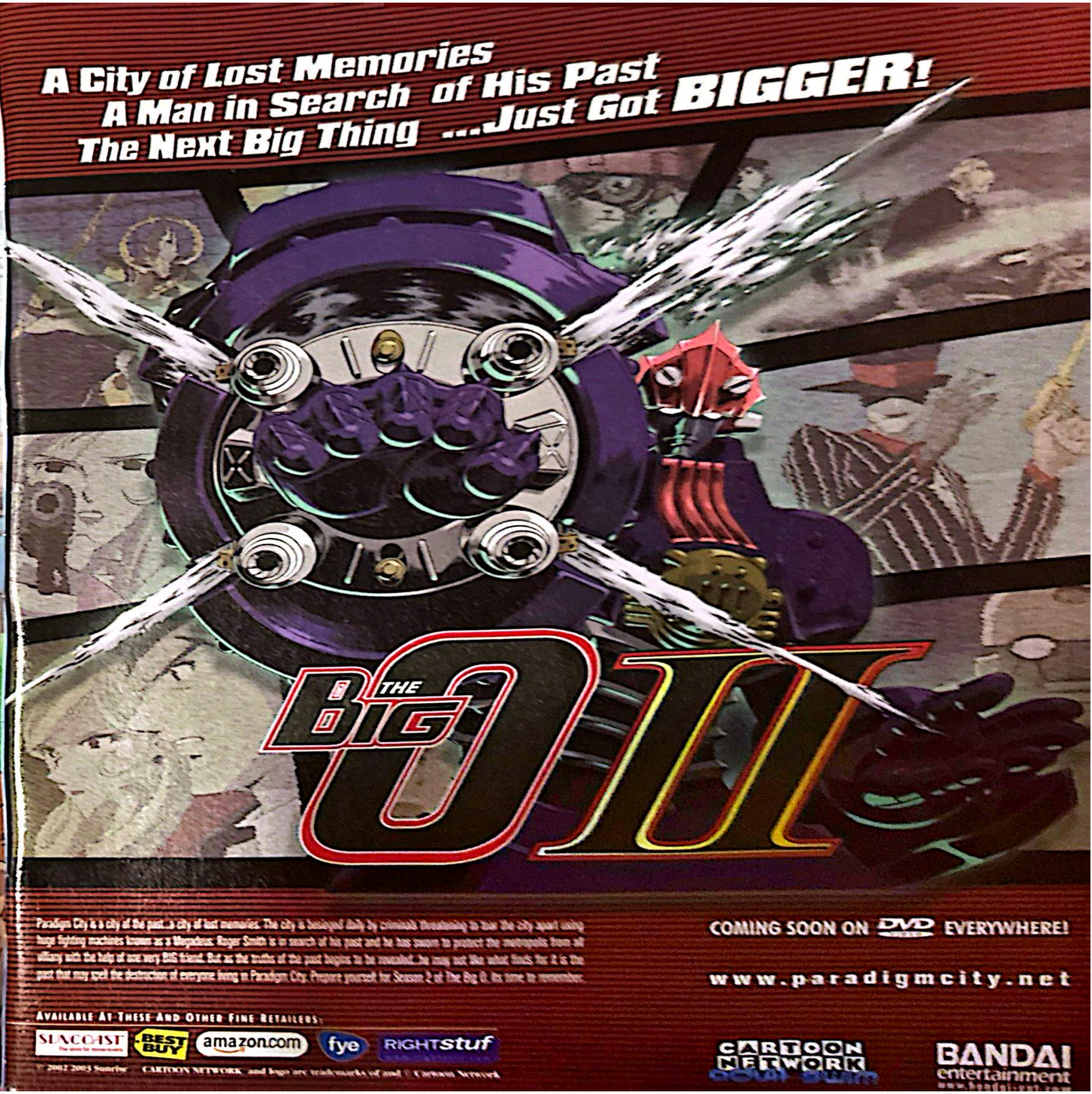
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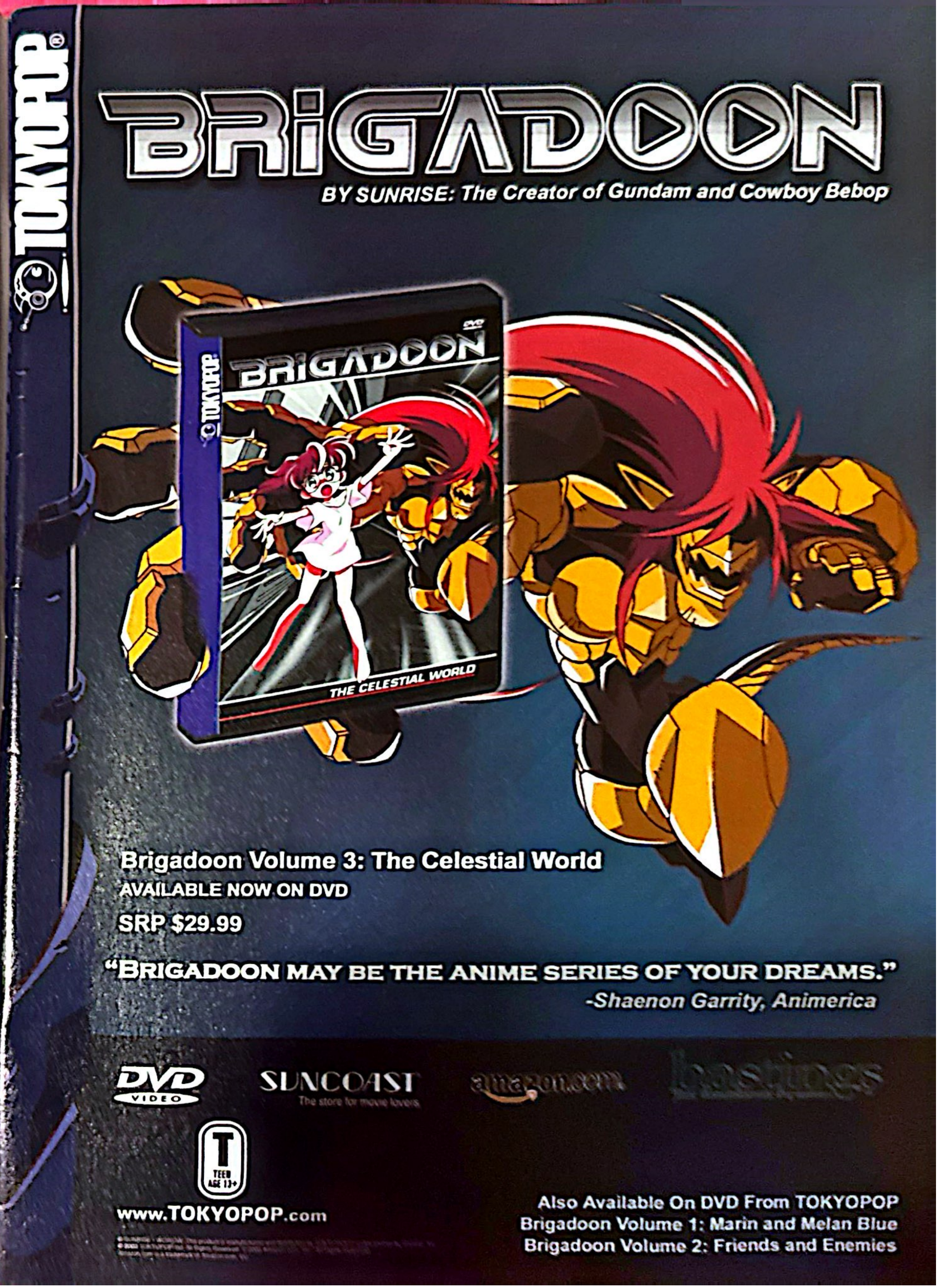

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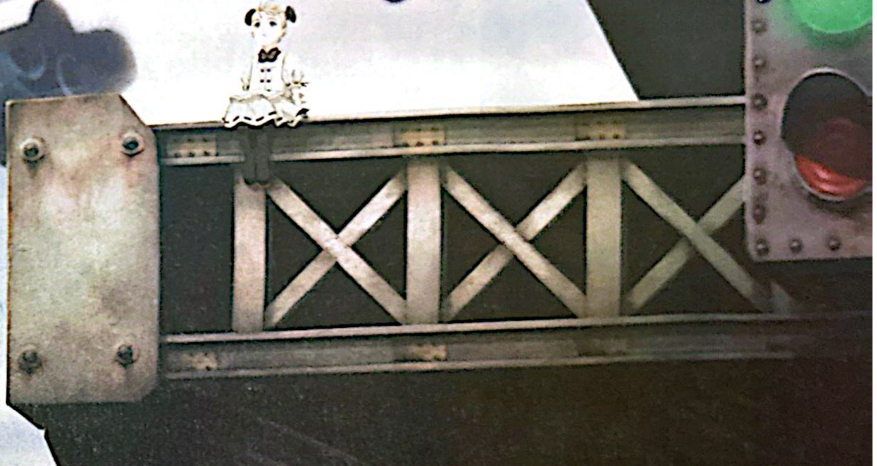

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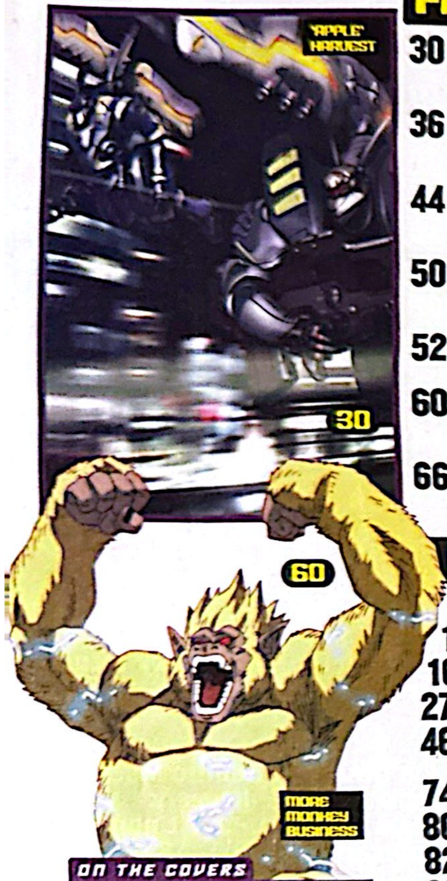

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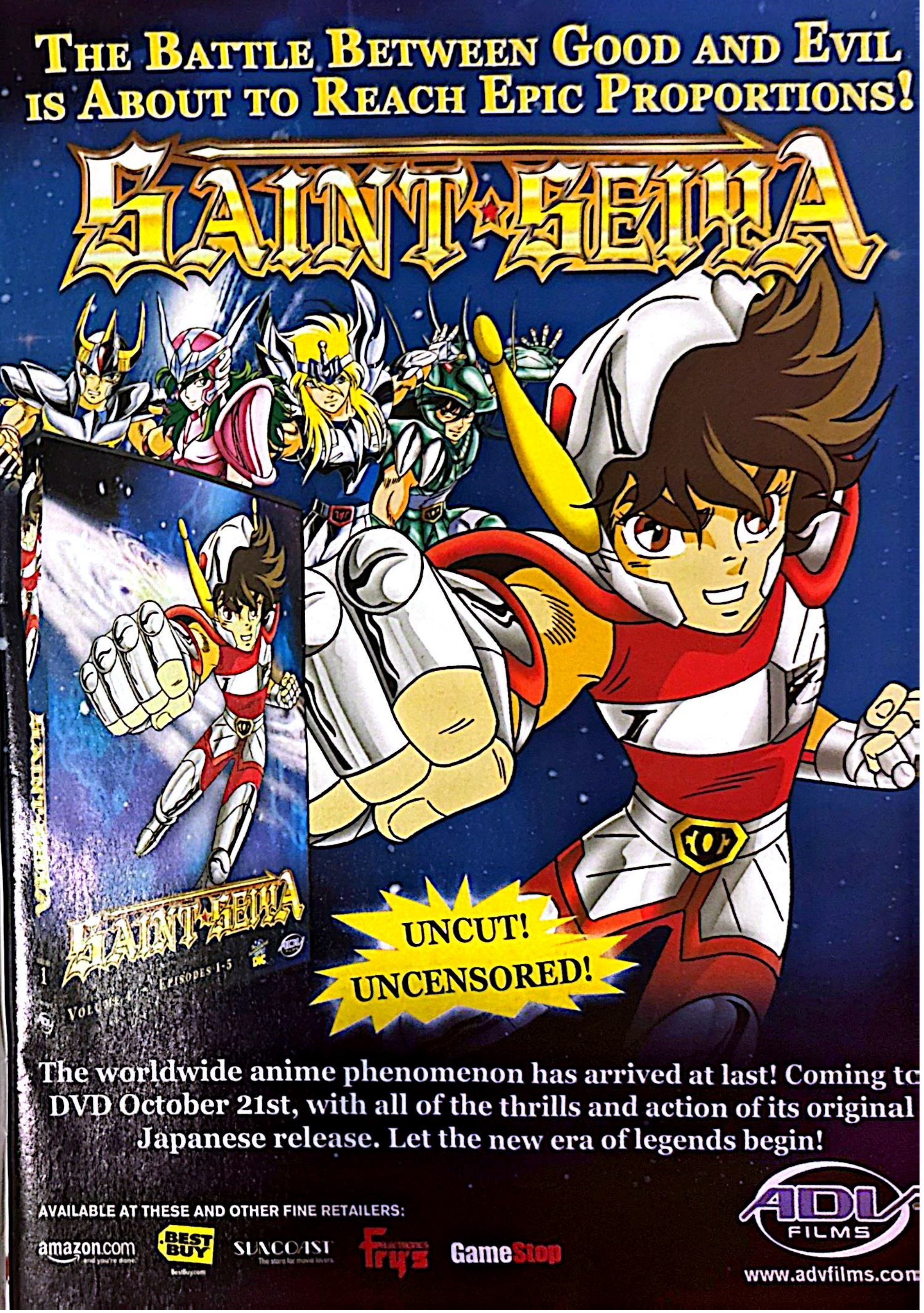

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# FROM THE TOP

## AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE 'INSIDER' STAFF

**NAME:** Douglas Goldstein
**MAG TAG:** Senior Editor
**POWERS:** Wields the Mega-Cannon Sword of Lightning, can eat Circus Peanuts without crying, tells good and evil by taste.
**FAVE ANIME:** "*Akira*, of course."
**ON THE TUBE:** "Just got into *Nadesico* on the Anime Network. Spiffy!"
**DARK SECRET:** Trained his two cats to steal action figures.

**NAME:** Robert Bricken
**MAG TAG:** Managing Editor
**POWERS:** Expert at the Soh-Ryu-Sen style, can eat his weight in ground pepper, blood is 43% Scotch.
**FAVE ANIME:** "*FLCL*. No, *Urusei Yatsura*. No, *FLCL*!" (*head explodes*)
**ON THE TUBE:** "TV is dead to me until *One Piece* arrives."
**DARK SECRET:** Wrote a 150-page college thesis on why *Final Fantasy VII* is the best videogame ever. We swear.

**NAME:** Trisha L. Sebastian
**MAG TAG:** Associate Editor
**POWERS:** Orb of Saturn lets her talk to magic cat Mr. Snuffaluffagus, can pick the right hat for anyone, burns the wicked.
**FAVE ANIME:** "*Revolutionary Girl Utena*, because girls with swords kick butt."
**ON THE TUBE:** "Once a year, I watch the *Evangelion* TV episodes back to back because I'm masochistic."
**DARK SECRET:** Steals soap and shampoo from hotel rooms and the housekeeping carts.

**NAME:** Miguel A.E. Betta
**MAG TAG:** Intern of Fury
**POWERS:** Can drive a giant robot (but not a car), finds anything in the *Anime Insider* library in under 30 seconds, likes to cuddle.
**FAVE ANIME:** "*Evangelion*. Are you thinking about paying me anytime soon?"
**ON THE TUBE:** "Watching bootleg *Wolf's Rain* DVDs...purely for research purposes."
**DARK SECRET:** Can carry three slices of pizza under his shirt.

Illustrations by Robert DeJesus

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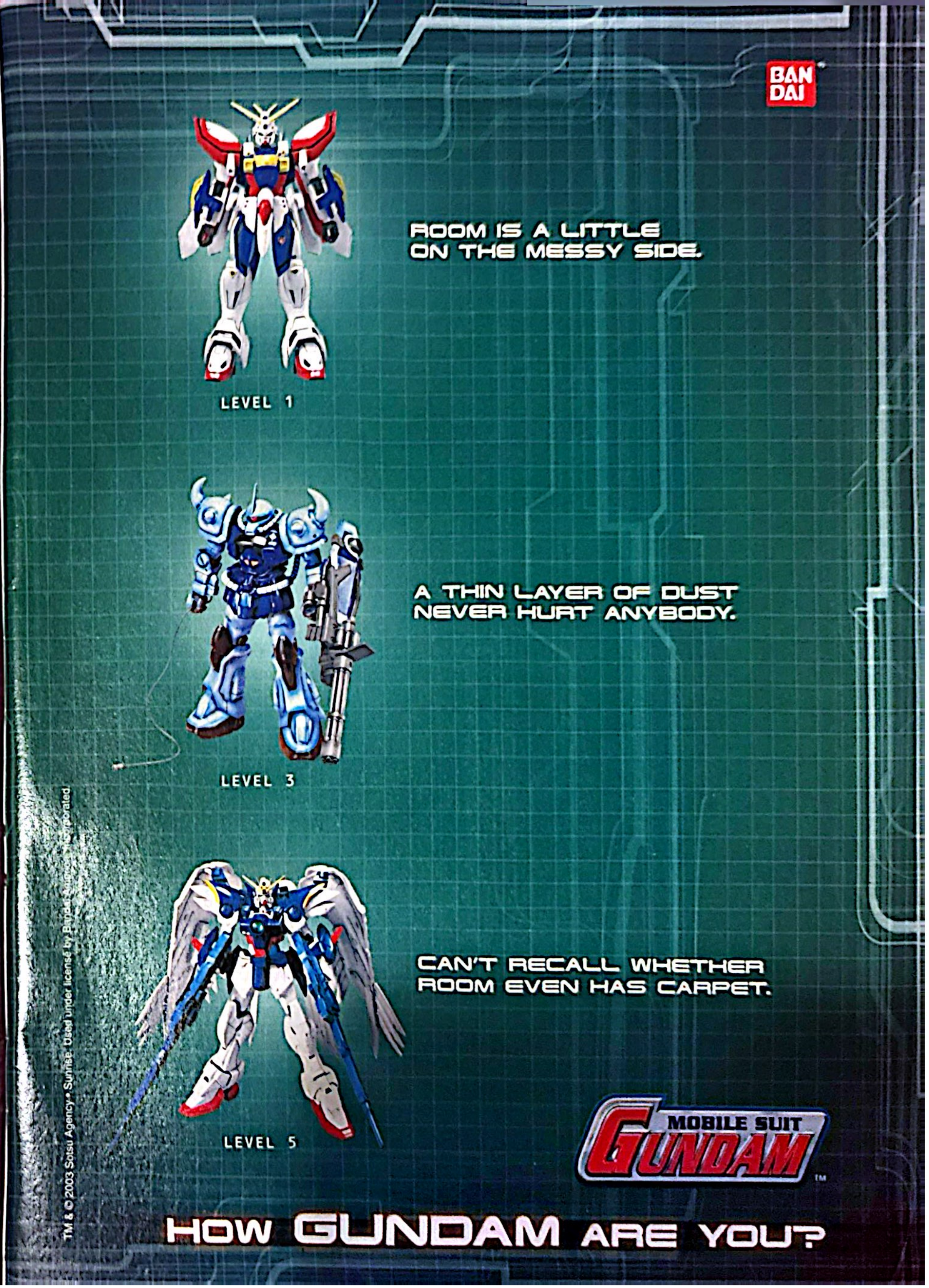
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# ANIMAIL!

## YOU'RE FANS YOUR MAIL

***I can hardly believe it! It's the 10th edition of the amazing "Animail"! I'm your host, Tom Root, and I'm back to round up the good, the bad and the ugly from the Anime Insider mail bin for your reading pleasure. The good: "Animail" can change your life! Just check out young Max Peterson's letter; if that doesn't convince you to write to us, nothing will! The bad: All those anime series you wish would get a second season...probably won't. Sniff. The ugly: People who smoke. There are no smoking letters this month; I just thought I'd throw in that little public service announcement. Three, two, one, let's go!***

THIS THING'S GOTTA DRY MY CLOTHES EVENTUALLY!
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH.
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### DEAR ANIME INSIDER,

I heard rumors that second seasons of *Trigun, Cowboy Bebop* and *Hellsing* are on the way...is there any way you can clear this up for me?

**Mike Casey**
**via cyberspace**

***Ah, those pesky rumors. They usually have sad endings. Like this time. "There are currently no plans for more Trigun or Bebop," says a Cartoon Network spokesperson.***

***As for the last series on the list, "The best way to answer that is that there is no Hellsing currently in production," says Chad Kime, assistant marketing manager for Pioneer. Dark Horse's soon-to-be-released Hellsing manga does continue past the storyline covered in the TV series, and we just happen to have a 12-page preview of it on page 36. So there is potential for more Hellsing anime.***

***For the record, the Trigun manga also continues well past the anime; you can still get your fix.***

IT'S COMFIER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!
VASH THE STAMPEDE

### HEY! YU YU HAKUTOM!

Thank you for helping me with my question ["Animail" #8]. My mom now likes anime, and I'm allowed to buy *Trigun* and others!

**Max Peterson**
**DeTour, MI**

***Just to recap, Max's mom was on the verge of throwing all his Patlabor tapes in the dumpster because she considered anime demeaning to women. I asked Sarah Dyer, who writes the fabulous Kodocha manga adaptation, to help Max plead his case, and she suggested Hayao Miyazaki films as a way to bridge the gap between mother and son. Sounds like it worked! Congratulations, Max!***

***If you have any more trouble with Mom, like she won't let you buy a motorcycle or something, just let me know. I'll [illegible] on the case.***

### DEAR ANIME INSIDER,

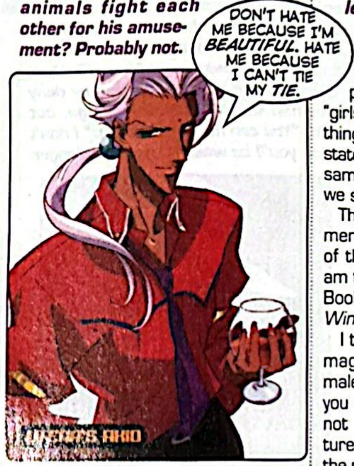
Is it just me, or do most of the characters in anime have [illegible] dads? I'll give you some examples: Kid Muscle from *Ultimate Muscle*, Ash from *Pokémon*, Yugi Mutoh and Kaiba from *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, Monkey D. Luffy from *One Piece*, Kagome from *Inu-Yasha*, Mireille from *Noir*, Lan from *MegaMan: NT Warrior*...

I could go on, but I'll stop.

**Jessie Slaby**
**Rock Creek, OH**

***Whether you're talking about anime, Disney movies or Harry Potter books, the first order of business when creating a young hero is to strip away one or both parents. In adventure tales, a common theme is the main character discovering his or her own strengths, and learning to stand on his or her own two feet. Having coddling parents hanging around would lessen the drama.***

***Pokémon's Ash is learning how to be a man. If he had a firm yet loving father at home, would he really need to travel the countryside making his small animals fight each other for his amusement? Probably not.***


DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M BEAUTIFUL. HATE ME BECAUSE I CAN'T TIE MY TIE.

### DEAR ANIME INSIDER,

My friend Melissa and I have been drawing for quite a while. We are really good at it, but...I can't think of anything to draw!

When I first started, I used music to help me think of something, but then I lost my inspiration. I've tried studying anime and manga creators, too. Nothing works!

What should I do? Please help!

**Nadine Kerwin**
**Rochelle, IL**

***I can never think of anything to write, either. But then my editors yell at me and call me names and threaten to rip up my paycheck if I miss another deadline, and that tends to motivate me. And come to think of it, lots of manga creators also credit their editors' whip-cracking as the only way they get anything done. So that's what you need, Nadine: an editor!***

***So, just this once, I'll help you out and be your editor. I order you to draw a story about a spider monkey who wears a bowling shirt and clown shoes, and he wants to be a famous opera singer, except he's being hunted by Luciano Pavarotti's evil mutant step-children who shoot fire out of their eyeballs! Also, make sure the monkey's parents are both dead. See the above letter for an explanation.***

### DEAR ANIME INSIDER,

I think Trisha Sebastian is 100 percent right about the whole "girls like anime as much as guys" thing ["From the Top," *AI* #8]. She stated that we should be treated the same as guys who like anime, and we should!

There better not be any rude comments or snickering from the men of this magazine, but personally I am tired of being looked at funny in Books-a-Million when I buy *Gundam Wing* manga!

I think all the girls who read your magazine would like to see more male anime stars. Is there anything you can do? A good start would be not having as many *Love Hina* pictures. There are enough boobs in the real world—we don't need to see them in anime.

**Chelsea Reichert**
**Spring Hill, FL**

***We're definitely aware of our female readership. I get more letters to "Animail" from gals than guys! So don't worry. We're constantly tweaking our content from issue to issue, and I'm sure you'll like what you see in the future.***

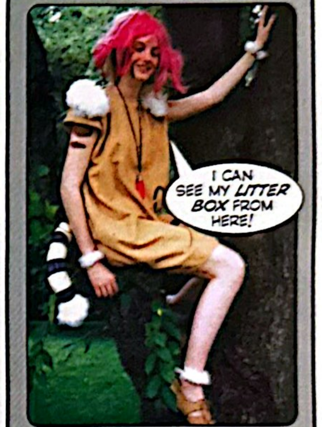
***But I'd like to take this opportunity to point out that our male***

## COSPLAY CAVALCADE

### MERLE FROM 'ESCAFLOWNE'

**BY EMILY MARK**

Plenty of fans can do catgirls, but Emily Mark of Valley Cottage, NY, can do catgirls right. As the super-cute feline devotee of Prince Van of Fanelia, Merle makes life a merry heck for Hitomi. Sadly, after taking this picture, Emily was stuck in this tree until firemen rescued her two hours later. Wanna join the Cavalcade? Send your pic to *Anime Insider!* Now!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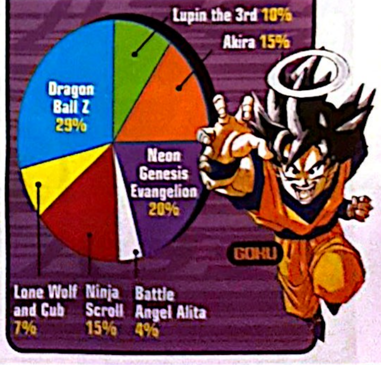

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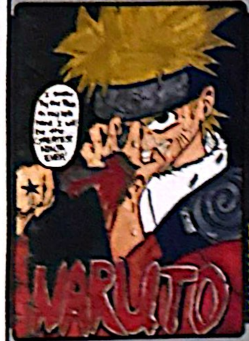
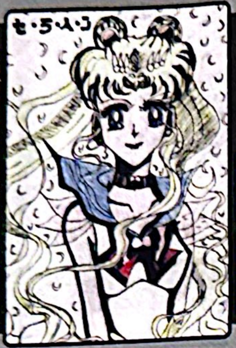


**NARUTO**
ANDREA VARGAS, LOS ANGELES, CA



**SAILOR MOON**
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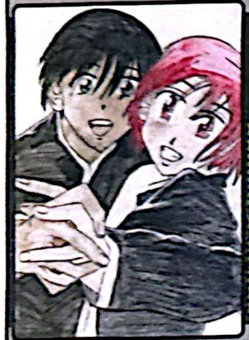
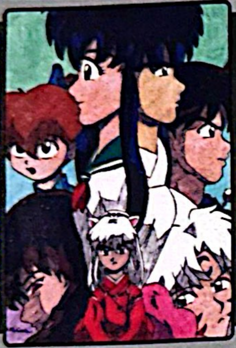


**ARIMA & YUKINO**
KRISTINE CHAMBERS, ACCOKEEK, MD



**INU-YASHA CAST**
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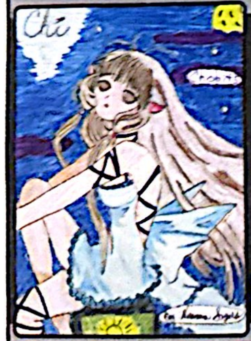

**CHI**
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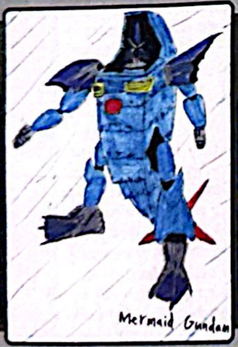

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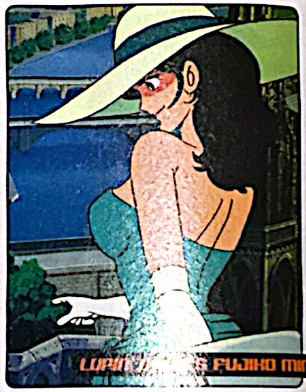
*and female readers aren't all that different! The men want to see naked-er anime girls, and the women want to see naked-er anime boys. Nobody ever writes in to say, "Please show anime characters that aren't quite so dreamy." Control your hormones, people!*

### DEAR ANIME INSIDER,

Do you know if anyone has the guts to translate the *Weiss Kreuz* manga, or is it just a bit too freakish?

*Dana H.*
*via cyberspace*

*Media Blasters, the company that holds the* Weiss Kreuz *(a. k. a.* Knight Hunters*) anime rights, recently announced they'd be getting into the manga business, focusing on the anime they've already licensed. At press time, a Media Blasters spokesperson couldn't confirm or deny they had the* Weiss Kreuz *manga, but said, "You can never rule it out." I don't think you'll be waiting too much longer.*



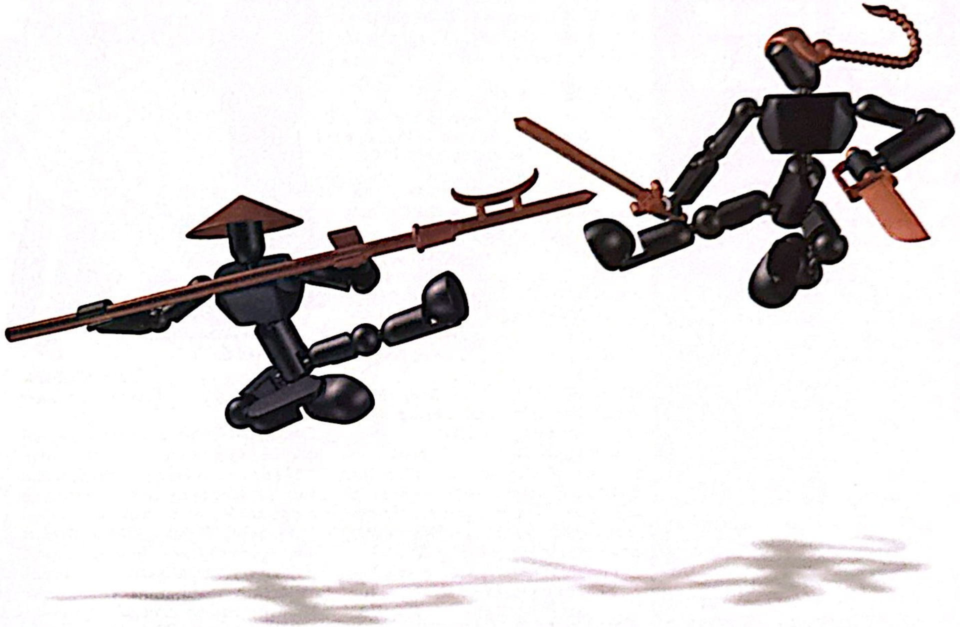
LUPIN III'S FUJIKO MINE

### DEAR ANIME INSIDER,

I heard there is going [illegible] live-action *Lupin III* movie. I think that's [illegible]ome. I think Carmen Electra should be [illegible]! Just a thought!

*Chantal Rebecca Applegarth*
*Boca Raton, FL*

*A live-action* Lupin *is indeed on the way, but so far there are no concrete casting plans. So that means we can cast it ourselves! Here are my picks:*
*Lupin: Johnny Depp*
*Jigen: Colin Farrell (he's in everything)*
*Goemon: Chow Yun-Fat*
*Fujiko: Laetitia Casta*
*Zenigata: Rowan Atkinson*



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# WORDS FOR THE WISE

## WANNA KNOW WHAT ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE YAMMERING ABOUT?

**BAKA**—[BAH-kah] Japanese for "idiot." Along with "kawaii," the most popular Japanese word learned by anime newbies.

**DOOZO**—[DOUGH-zo] The equivalent of "If you please." Listen for it when characters say, "Hai, doozo," which means, "Yes, go ahead!"

**DOUJINSHI**—[DOUGH-jin-she] Fan-created manga, often about already-established manga or anime characters.

**ECCHI**—[EH-chee] Just like *hentai*, it means "pervert" or "perverted," but it has milder connotations. Think of it this way: hentai is *Debbie Does Dallas*, ecchi is *American Pie*.

**FANSUB**—[Um…FAN-sub?] Unlicensed copies of anime with subtitles added by fans.

**KANJI**—[CON-jee] Chinese characters imported into the Japanese system of writing. Children (or dumb characters) often have trouble with them.

**MANGA**—[MAHN-ga] Japanese comic books.

**MANGA-KA**—[MAHN-ga KA] A creator of manga.

**-SAMA**—[SAH-mah] A suffix used when addressing someone really important or respected. Example: "Konnichi-wa, Pope-sama!"

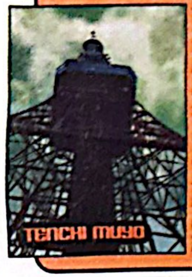
**SHÔNEN**—[SHO-nehn] An adjective meaning "for boys." Shônen manga, shônen anime, etc.

**TANKOUBAN**—[TAN-ko-bahn] The Japanese equivalent of a "trade paperback"—a collection of many issues of manga.

# CULTURE SHOCKER

## WHY THE JAPANESE DO THOSE WEIRD THINGS THEY DO

Ever wondered why the Eiffel Tower keeps popping up in the background of your favorite anime? Well, that's actually Tokyo Tower, completed in 1958 as a monument to Japan's economic success and also as a TV and radio relay station. It's *supposed* to look just like the Eiffel Tower, with a few differences: at 333 meters high, it's 13 meters taller than the one in France, and about half its weight. However, it's still an expensive tourist trap, just like the original.



*Evil Kangaroo Smuggler: Me*

*Got a Lupin cast in mind? Lemme hear it. Who knows? Maybe the producers will spot your suggestions and take your advice!*

*DEAR ANIME INSIDER,*

In "Animail" #8, Max from San Jose wrote that he hates DVDs because they're more expensive, and VHS is not being produced as much as before. That's why I bought a DVD player several years ago (for under $70, I might add) in order to see all the anime I can no longer find on VHS. If Max would like, he can have all my anime on VHS. He just has to pay for the shipping.

*Jennifer Thompson*
*Cherry Hill, NJ*

*Wow! What an offer! See, this is what "Animail" is all about: anime fans spreading the love.*

*If Max contacts me, I'll pass along your e-mail address, Jennifer. And before a hundred other jokers claiming to be "Max" make a bid for that free anime, just remember that I have Max's handwriting on file.*

*I mean, I'm all about anime love, but I'm not a sucker. Punks!*

*DEAR ANIME INSIDER,*

I would like to know all of the characters that Kirby Morrow does voices for. That is, if it isn't too much trouble.

*Amanda Fincham*
*Acworth, GA*

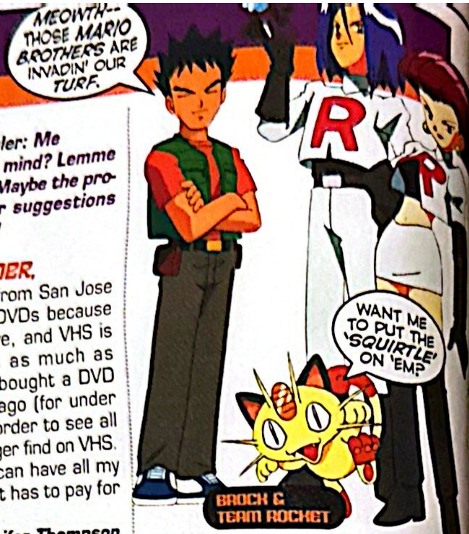
*Kirby's a popular guy—suddenly everyone's asking questions about him! He's done too much to list here, but here are some of his highlights. (For those of you playing along at home, you can get his full credits at www.imdb.com.) He's voiced Sakura's dad in Card Captors, ElecMan in MegaMan: NT Warrior, Miroku in Inu-Yasha, Trowa Barton in Gundam Wing, Van Fanel in Escaflowne and lots more. He's even Cyclops in X-Men: Evolution! When does this guy get any sleep?*

TROWA BARTON

*DEAR ANIME INSIDER,*

Could you find out what happens to Brock and Team Rocket when they grow up?

*John Sudbeck*
*via cyberspace*


MEOWTH... THOSE MARIO BROTHERS ARE INVADIN' OUR TURF.
WANT ME TO PUT THE 'SQUIRTLE' ON 'EM?
BROCK & TEAM ROCKET

*Ever since I answered whether Ash and Misty get married ["Animail" #8] I've been getting questions like this. It's not easy being the world's foremost Pokémon expert!*

*Naturally, Brock and Team Rocket join forces to form "Team Brocket," and they start a lucrative business exporting decorative Pikachu hides to Pier 1 stores around the world.*

*And with that, I'm gone like I'm mowin' the lawn. But for the love of all that's holy, keep those letters and drawings coming! Not only do they make me feel important, but without them, we'd have four blank pages at the front of the magazine.*

—Tom Root

---

*Nothing [illegible] Tom Root warm in the [illegible] like a bona fide Pikachu [illegible] blanket—only $99 at a store near you! Pika!*

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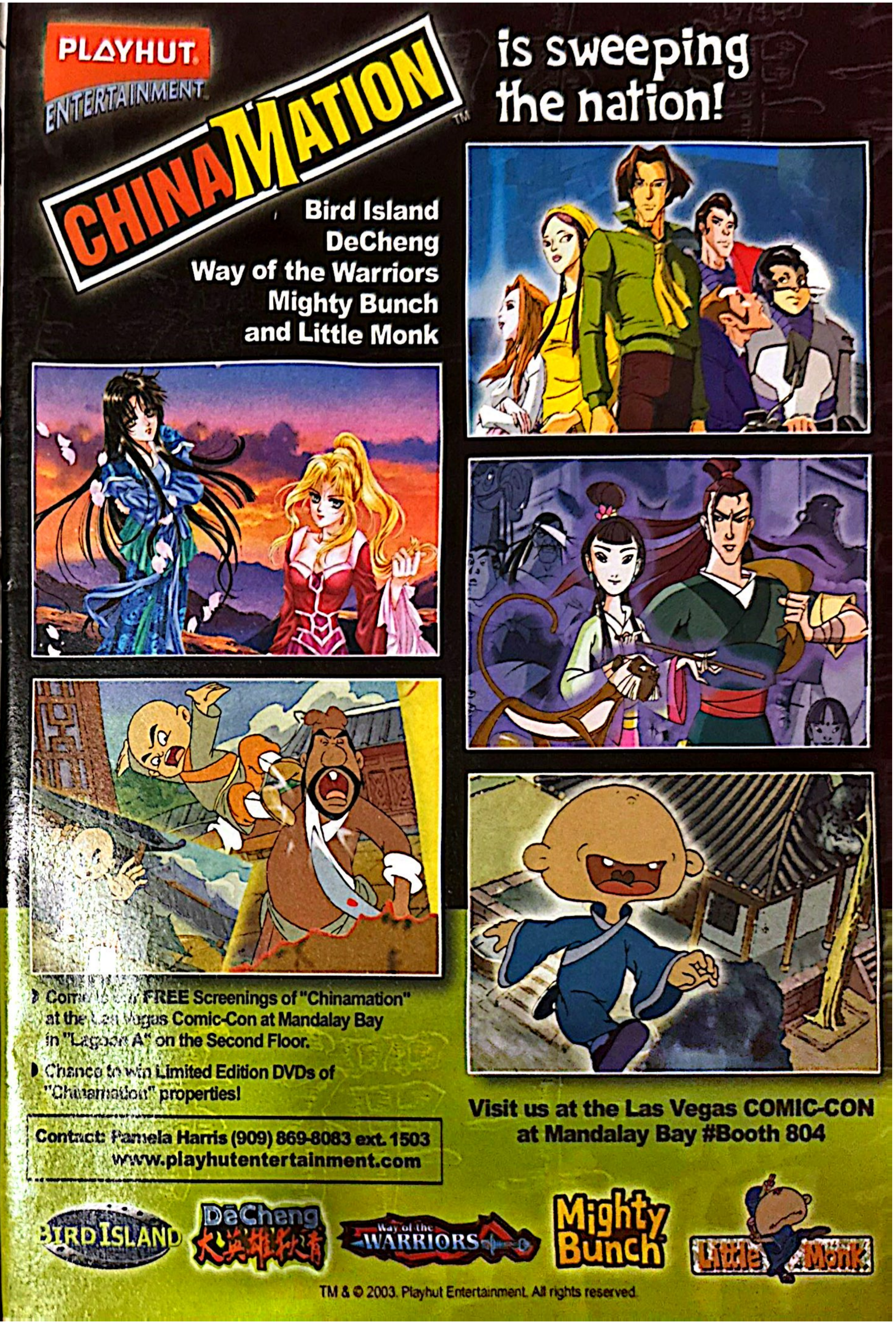
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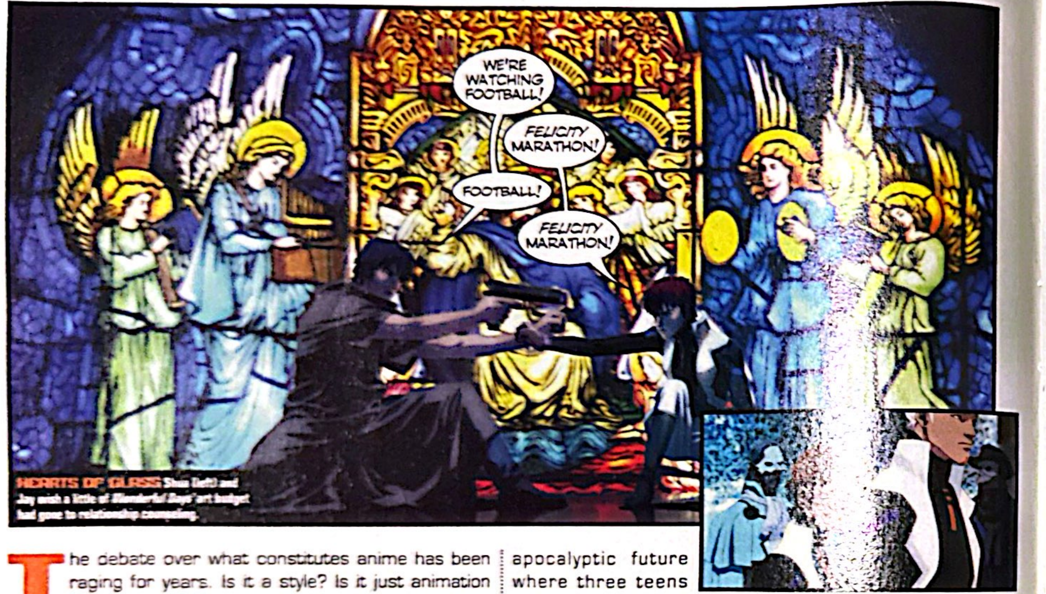
# INSIDER NEWS+NOTES

## SEOUL CALIBER

### Step Aside, Japan! Korea Aims to be the Next Anime Powerhouse


WE'RE WATCHING FOOTBALL!
FELICITY MARATHON!
FOOTBALL!
FELICITY MARATHON!

**HEARTS OF GLASS** Shu (left) and Jay wish a little of *Wonderful Days'* art budget had gone to relationship counseling.

The debate over what constitutes anime has been raging for years. Is it a style? Is it just animation from Japan? The debate's about to get tougher, because there's a new player in the game: South Korea.

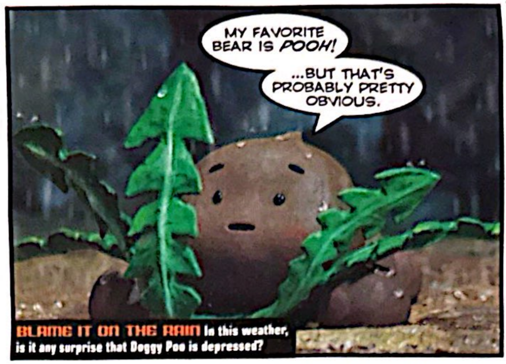
Korean animation—visually distinct as partially anime-influenced, partially Disney-influenced, and then a bit something original—is edging its way into the lucrative American anime market. Several anime licensors have started fishing from the deep pool of Korea's cartoon industry as a new source of titles.

ADV Films has announced two Korean animation titles due out 2004: *My Beautiful Girl, Mari* and *Bastof Lemon*. *My Beautiful Girl, Mari*, the winner of the Grand Prix for Best Feature at the 26th Annecy International Animated Film Festival in 2002, is a coming-of-age story: young Nam-woo escapes his hard family life by fantasizing about a life with a girl named Mari. Based on its critical acclaim, ADV even has announced a limited theatrical release for the film.

*Bastof Lemon* is a 13-episode series set in a post-apocalyptic future where three teens compete in a virtual reality robot simulation called the Lemon Game that is having some pretty bizarre effects on the real world. "It's a fun title for kids and teens alike with a strong cast of characters and some very intriguing plot twists," says Andrew Nelson, public relations manager for ADV.

Another recent U. S.-bound Korean release is a little 30-minute film called *Doggy Poo*, based on a popular children's book by author Jung-Saeng Kwon. It's a film about a lonely little pile of dog...crap that learns to appreciate itself. "When we saw the tremendous audience reaction at the Big Apple Anime Fest (BAAF), we knew that this would be a very noteworthy release, so we moved as fast as we could to license it," says John O'Donnell, president of Central Park Media.

Although Korean animation may be new to the American market, animation isn't new to Korea. Korean studios have been the cheap-but-skilled foreign labor that both American and Japanese companies have given "grunt" animation work—like "in-betweens," the numerous animation cels that make the characters move in-between the important "key" cels that determine the actual positions—for years. Korean studios have been partially responsible for cartoons as diverse as *Ren & Stimpy* and *Spirited Away*.


MY FAVORITE BEAR IS POOH!
...BUT THAT'S PROBABLY PRETTY OBVIOUS.

**BLAME IT ON THE RAIN** In this weather, is it any surprise that Doggy Poo is depressed?

These years of experience and doing the dirty work have given them plenty of animation experience, and helped propel their own small animation industry. Since the early '80s, Korea has released several animated films and TV series, all highly influenced, both visually and narratively, by the anime of its neighbor Japan.

"We've been paying very close attention to Korean animation for some time," says ADV Films president John Ledford. "The industry is not yet as well established as the Japanese animation industry, but the quality of the work is very impressive." To this effect, the Korea IT Industry Promotion Agency [KIPA] has attended many of this year's Anime conventions, including Anime Expo and the Big Apple Anime Fest. Established by the Korean government in 1998, KIPA's goal is to promote Korean software and other digital products overseas.

While that may be so, Korean animation has still been struggling for acceptance, even in its home country. This summer, Korean production company Tinhouse released *Wonderful Days*, a 13 billion won ($11 million U. S.) breath-taking animated feature, which combined 2D and 3D digital animation with a cutting-edge sci-fi storyline. While it took five years to create and was the most expensive Korean animation ever produced, it was a box office flop. Despite critical acclaim, it earned only 1.9 million won.

As Alex Shin, U. S. Regional Manager for the Korea Culture and Contents Agency (KOCCA) sees it, Korea hasn't been able "to make their own stand" because there still aren't enough big productions in Korea. "With some Korean companies trying to produce their own creative works...for the global market, [the results might be] fruitful, if we can develop our scenario and marketing strategy more effectively."

Once Korea manages to create that mega-production and achieve that recognition, expect Japan to lose monopoly on the "Anime" shelf in the videostores.

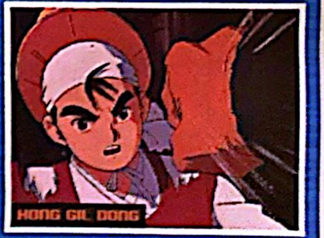
But don't think it's new. "Korean animation has been with us for years," says BAAF director Victor Eisenberg. "We just didn't realize it." ■ Adam Arnold

## READY FOR SHIPPING?

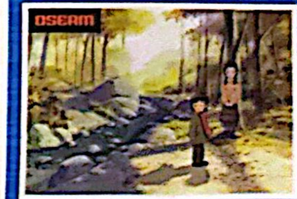
### THE TOP 5 UNLICENSED SHOWS WAITING ON THE KOREAN DOCKS

**With Korean animation just beginning to trickle into North America, there is a still a considerable portion of the country's animation output that has yet to be licensed. America has a lot of catching up to do.**

**5. HONG GIL DONG**
(Shin Dong Hyun Productions)

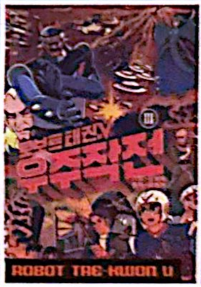


**Korea's first animated feature, made in 1967 by Korea's Walt Disney, Shin Dong Woo. Set in the Yi dynasty, the story follows a mistreated concubine's son as he rebels and sticks up for the peasants in true "Robin Hood" fashion.**



**4. OSEAM** (Mago21)

**Based on a book by Jeong Chae-bong, *Oseam* follows two orphans, Gil-san and his blind sister Gam-I, as they make ends meet in a secluded temple on Mt. Seorak. This tearjerker can give even *The Dog of Flanders* a run for its money.**



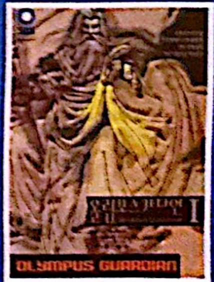
**3. WHITE HEART BAEKGU**
(Premier Entertainment)

**On its way to be sold, a white jindo dog falls from the bike of its master and befriends a pair of children. A series of unfortunate evens push the trio apart and Baekgu must find the will to return. It's *Black Beauty* with a Ghibli-esque twist.**

**2. ROBOT TAEKWON V** (Bitwin)

**Blazing into theaters for the first time in 1976, *Robot Taekwon V* became Korea's landmark mecha property. *Taekwon V* follows young pilot Hun as he strives to defeat the evil Dr. Karp with his mad tae-kwon do skills.**

**1. OLYMPUS GUARDIAN**
(SBS Production)



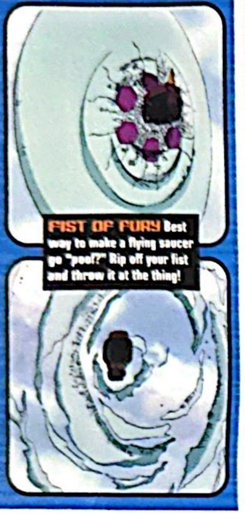
***Olympus Guardians* does to Greek mythology what *Reign* did for Alexander the Great. The ancient myths come to life as a father tells the timeless stories to his children. Despite the epic material, there are plenty of hilarious, super-deformed antics to keep things fresh. ■ AA**

## DEATH OF THE MONTH

### HETERODYNE FROM 'DAI-GUARD'

Here's the biggest problem with having your government-approved, alien invasion-defending giant robot built by the lowest bidder: it comes with no frills.

The three Japanese office workers who pilot the robot—called Dai-Guard—face off against aliens called the Heterodyne and have to make do with what they got. When a flying UFO-lookin' Heterodyne swoops in, the crew wing a nearby car at it, discovering it hurts the alien big. So hot-headed pilot Akagi decides to fire Dai-Guard's steel fists at it, using the "Rocket Punch!" But Dai-Guard has no Rocket Punch. So he does the next best thing: he rips one of Dai-Guard arms off at the elbow, and throws it at the alien. The flying saucerish alien disintegrates on impact! Uh, "yay" for our side? ■ Robert Bricken



**FIST OF FURY** Best way to make a flying saucer go "poof?" Rip off your fist and throw it at the thing!

## SPEEDLINES

### ITTY BITS OF ANIME NEWS. WHEE!

**HEAR IT FOR THE BOY** The Japanese are still going crazy for Astro Boy's recent birthday. A number of scientists have formally petitioned the Japanese government for 50 billion yen a year ($425 million bucks, folks), to start a project to create a robot with all the physical and emotional abilities of a 5-year-old boy. They call it... "Project Atom."

**EAT YOUR YUGI** Foodmaker General Mills has gone *Yu-Gi-Oh!* crazy, commissioning a range of their products to feature the King of Games. General Mills portable yogurt Go-Gurt and chewy fruit snack Fruit Gushers will feature Yugi packaging and special offers, as well as selected cereals. But Yugi will also get his own cereal, with honey-sweetened corn puffs shaped like Yugi's Millennium Medallion.

**CEREAL THRILLER** Enjoy a bowl of Yugi-O's today!

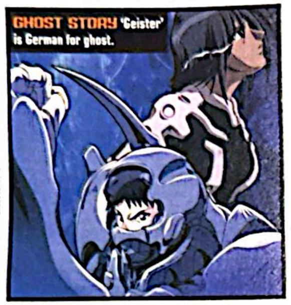
**LISTEN TO TOFU** Need more music? Tofu Records, an American Sony label devoted to bringing over J-pop music, recently released their first two albums! Their "JPOP CD" release features a sampling of 15 anime theme song and J-pop hits, while T.M. Revolution's "Coordinate" album features his theme song for *Mobile Suit Gundam Seed* and more. Check 'em out at http://www.jpopcd.com ■ Miguel A. E. Betita & RB

## CRASH LANDING

### Once the First-Ever U.S. Anime Retailer, Crash Now Aims to Revolutionize the Genre

Older fans may remember the name Anime Crash as the first-ever chain of American stores devoted to Japanese animation. Although they closed in 2000, the former beacon of otaku-ism is back from the beyond and ready to bring anime over on their own.

And thanks to its partnerships with Abrams Gentile Entertainment and various Sony branches, they mean business like no other company. "We have a lot of horizontal integration, meaning that should we get the rights to anything, we have the ability to make a toy, to make a DVD, to pitch a syndicated TV broadcast," said James Veronico, VP of sales and marketing.

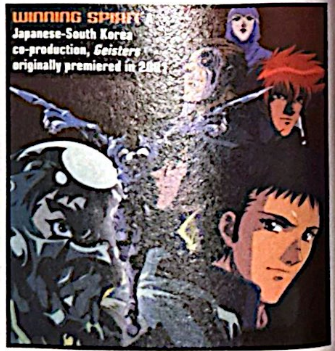


**GHOST STORY** 'Geister' is German for ghost.

It all starts with *Geisters*, a 26-episode series about a team of futuristic monster fighters, set for DVD release in early 2004. Following *Geisters* comes the series *Ki the Fighter* (a young martial artist defends his hometown against evil creatures) and *Track City* (think *The Fast and the Furious* for kids), which founder Scott Mauriello said will most likely debut on TV.

"We're going to change the way anime is packaged, designed and presented in the U. S.—to do what other companies haven't done," said Mauriello. This isn't just idle talk. Part of Anime Crash's marketing plan will include T-ink, a conductive "thinking ink" developed by its technology arm which can trigger effects on DVD covers and toys, among other things. "Touch the logo...and a few bars of the opening song would play," Veronico said. "Turn it over and you could hear anything from sound effects to actual reviews."

With new technology and ambition, this could be the Crash heard 'round the anime world. ■ Tom Root



**WINNING SPIRIT** Japanese-South Korea co-production, *Geisters* originally premiered in 2001

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# DRESS AND SUCCESS

## The First-Ever 'Anime Insider' Cosplay Winners

Whether it was to see or be seen, Chicago was the place to be if you wanted to rub shoulders with Optimus Prime, *One Piece*'s Roronoa Zoro, or *Super Mario Bros.*' Princess Toadstool, among dozens others, at our very first Cosplay Contest, held at Wizard World Chicago this August 9th!

Here are the winners of this year's contest. Check out **www.anime-insider.com** for all the contestants, and be sure to stop by next year!

SAKURA WARS

PAINE

YUNA

VASH AND REM

OPTIMUS PRIME

**NOVICE WINNER:**
Samantha Guarino and Robert Marker bring down the house as Rem and Vash the Stampede from *Trigun*.

**EXPERT WINNER:**
Scott Bakalyar (Sakura Taisen), Darcy Dillon (Sumire Kanzaki), Drew Mattingly (Ichiro Oghami) and Branden Pair (The Monster That Destroyed Tokyo) each get to share the Expert Class prize for their team effort on *Sakura Wars*.

**BEST SKIT:**
Ashley Polikoff (Paine) and Jacqueline Polikoff (Yuna) put on the Best Skit of the evening, with a *Final Fantasy X-2* humorous musical number!

**AUDIENCE FAVORITE:**
Don Sowers does The Robot as the Autobots' Optimus Prime, earning him both the Best in Show and Audience Favorite titles. ■ MB

# LIVE, FROM JAPAN

## Asia Strikes Back With Their Own Live-Action Anime

While Hollywood may be cashing in on anime's popularity through forthcoming live action adaptations, it's not alone. China and Japan are jumping in on the trend as well, and already begun filming! Here's what on the horizon.

**CUTEY HONEY** Inspired by Go Nagai's manga, the film will be directed by Hideaki Anno (*Evangelion*) and stars 21-year old Eriko Satou. A female crime-fighting android created by a lonely inventor mourning his dead daughter, *Honey* is famous for its fleshy transformation sequences, and Anno has coyly hinted that one will be a movie highlight. According to reports, Anno says that his rendition will contain the most costumes ever in a Japanese movie. It is expected to hit Japanese theaters sometime next year.

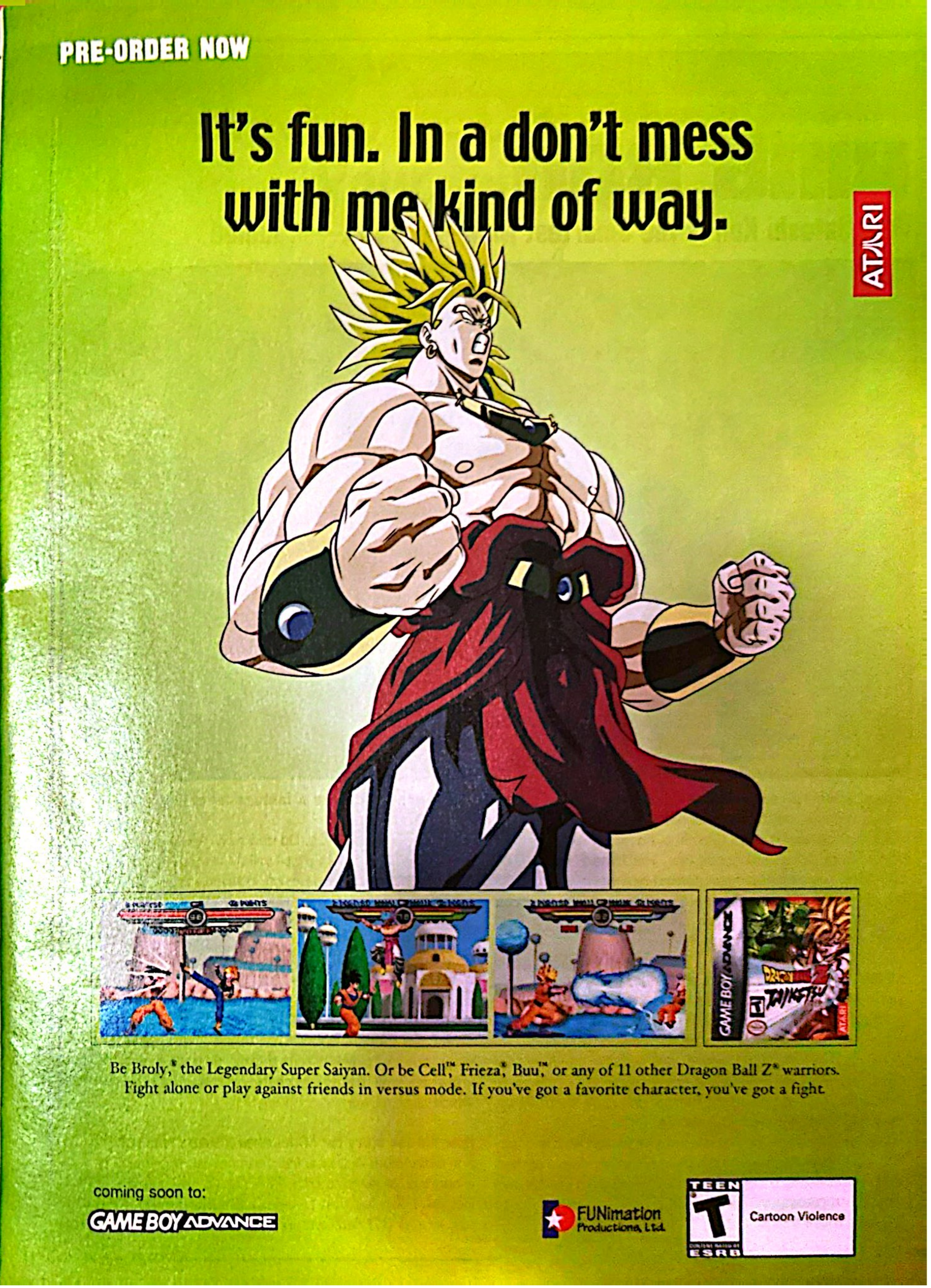
**GIGANTOR** Mitsuteru Yokoyama's classic manga (originally called *Tetsujin 28-go*) will hit Japanese cineplexes next fall. The celebrated '60s series about a giant, do-gooding robot controlled by a teen boy spawned a dubbed American TV version, plus a live-action "kaiju" series and two later anime shows in Japan. Beyond the movie, a new anime series is scheduled for Japanese broadcast next year, all of which could hit the States by late 2005.

CUTEY HONEY

GIGANTOR

THIS ROBOT RUNS ON *PURE COOL DOUGH!*

**INITIAL D** The tale of a tofu delivery boy who becomes a street racing champion will be made into a Cantonese language, live-action movie, filming in both China and Japan this year. Edison Chen (*The Medallion*) will play the lead role of Takumi, and the famed Tsui Hark (*A Chinese Ghost Story*) will direct. A release date is pending. ■ Bryan Reesman



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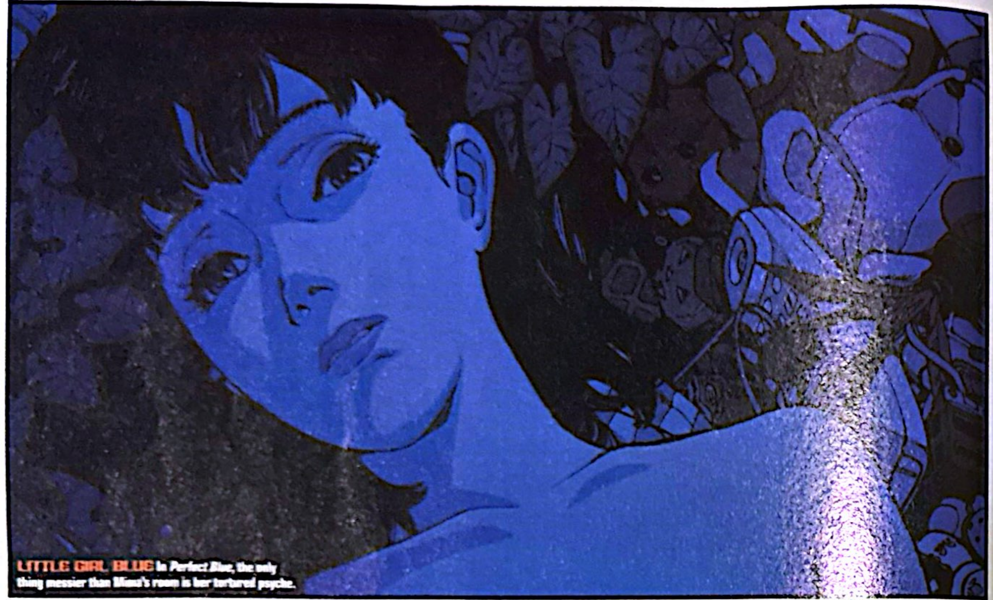
# KING KON

## Why Satoshi Kon Is the Smartest Man—and Bet—in Anime



**LITTLE GIRL BLUE** In *Perfect Blue*, the only thing messier than Mima's room is her tortured psyche.

Satoshi Kon doesn't make anime about giant robots. Instead, he makes intense, gripping, haunting psychodramas that look like an animated Ingmar Bergman or Alfred Hitchcock film. His films *Perfect Blue* and *Millennium Actress* have earned him worldwide critical acclaim. With *Millennium Actress*' arrival on DVD, as well as the U. S. premiere of his new film *Tokyo Godfathers*, A. I. grabbed our chance to chat with the master.

**ANIME INSIDER: Your movies could be live-action. Why do you prefer telling your stories through anime?**

**SATOSHIE KON:** A lot of anime illustrate other worlds and robots and the like, but animation and drawing in general can show anything. Using animation, it is possible to show people that the world they see every day, the one in front of their eyes, isn't the only thing there; I can show them things they might never have known about.

Japanese people have a unique expression that is different from other languages. We have a certain way, a certain style of expressing things, and similarly, animation has it's own way of expressing things. Animation is the way I know to express these things.

**Would you ever make a fantastical [illegible], with robots or anything?**

Yes, I've thought about it. Up until now, I've [illegible] realistic dramas, so no one thinks that I will do mecha or sci-fi movies. That might be why I have an interest in it. But if I did, it would probably be a bit different from the movies that other people make in the same genre.

**Do you ever want to do a live-action film?**

Actually, some producers have asked me to do live-action work, and in interviews I'm constantly asked, "Do you want to film a live-action movie?" Since I've been asked so many times, I've thought about it a little bit, and even have some ideas, but it would be difficult to express them in a form I don't know very well. I'd rather create work in a method I do know, which is animation.

**How did the story for *Millennium Actress* come about?**

For *Millennium Actress*, from the get-go, there was already a concept of wanting to do a film that was a kind of optical illusion. I also felt that I would like to make a film like that, a film where the real and illusory come together. So it was

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decided that the setting would be based around a single actress, and the stories within her story. But that alone was not enough to carry the plot, so we introduced the idea of her first love into the story as well. Additionally, this love follows the course of one thousand years of Japanese history.

**Can you tell us about your new film, *Tokyo Godfathers*?**
It's about three homeless people who live in Shinjuku, Tokyo, who find a newborn baby at a garbage dump on Christmas Day. They try to bring the baby back to its real parents, going here and there throughout the harsh Tokyo winter. These people, who have no money, experience miracle after miracle that seem to come from the baby. It's a happy comedy.

**What is the message that you want to say with *Tokyo Godfathers*?**
In regards to a message, I feel that it is something that audience gets from watching the movie, themselves. If the creator says, "This is the message," then it takes away the enjoyment the viewer would get from watching the movie. So I feel that it is best to not say what the message is supposed to be.

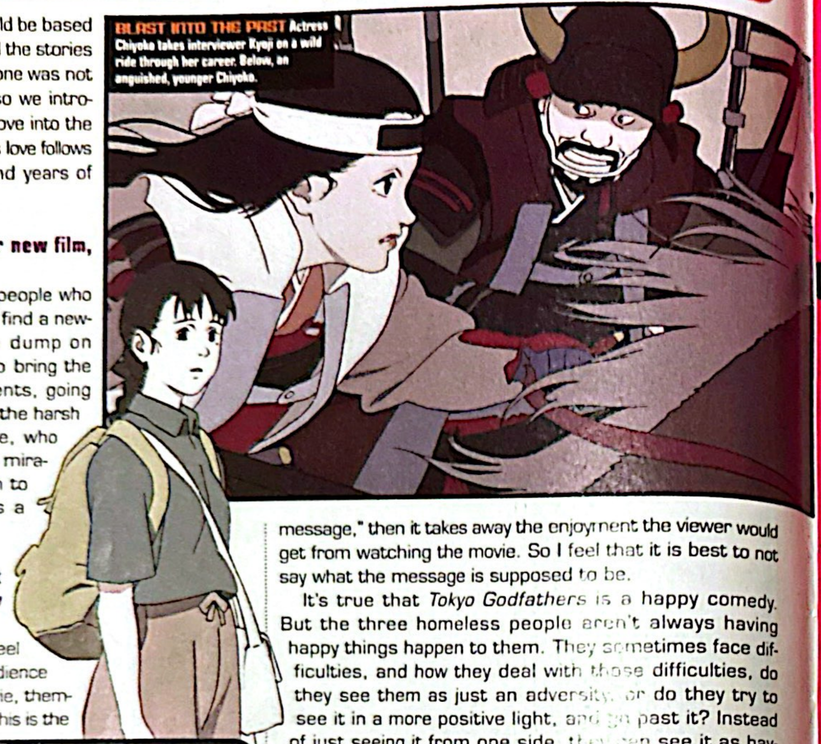
It's true that *Tokyo Godfathers* is a happy comedy. But the three homeless people aren't always having happy things happen to them. They sometimes face difficulties, and how they deal with those difficulties, do they see them as just an adversity, or do they try to see it in a more positive light, and go past it? Instead of just seeing it from one side, they can see it as having two sides.

**What was your favorite anime and manga growing up?**
I'm a person that was raised on Osamu Tezuka works. I was born around the time that he created *Tetsuwan Atom* (*Astro Boy*). If Mr. Tezuka had never existed, then I wouldn't be doing this kind of work, I wouldn't be interested in drawing. I really got my start because of Osamu Tezuka.

**If you weren't an anime director, what would be your dream job?**
A manga artist. A popular manga artist, not a regular one—that would be my ideal. *(laughs)*

**What's next on your agenda?**
Over there, in Japan, there is a lot of work piled up, waiting for me. *[In English]* I work hard everyday.

**So how do you kick back and relax?**
Work doesn't really cause me stress, so while I'm working, I get rid of stress and work at the same time. It's very useful. *(laughs)* When I get a little tired or stressed, I drink a little bit of alcohol. ■ Richard Kim & Trisha L. Sebastian

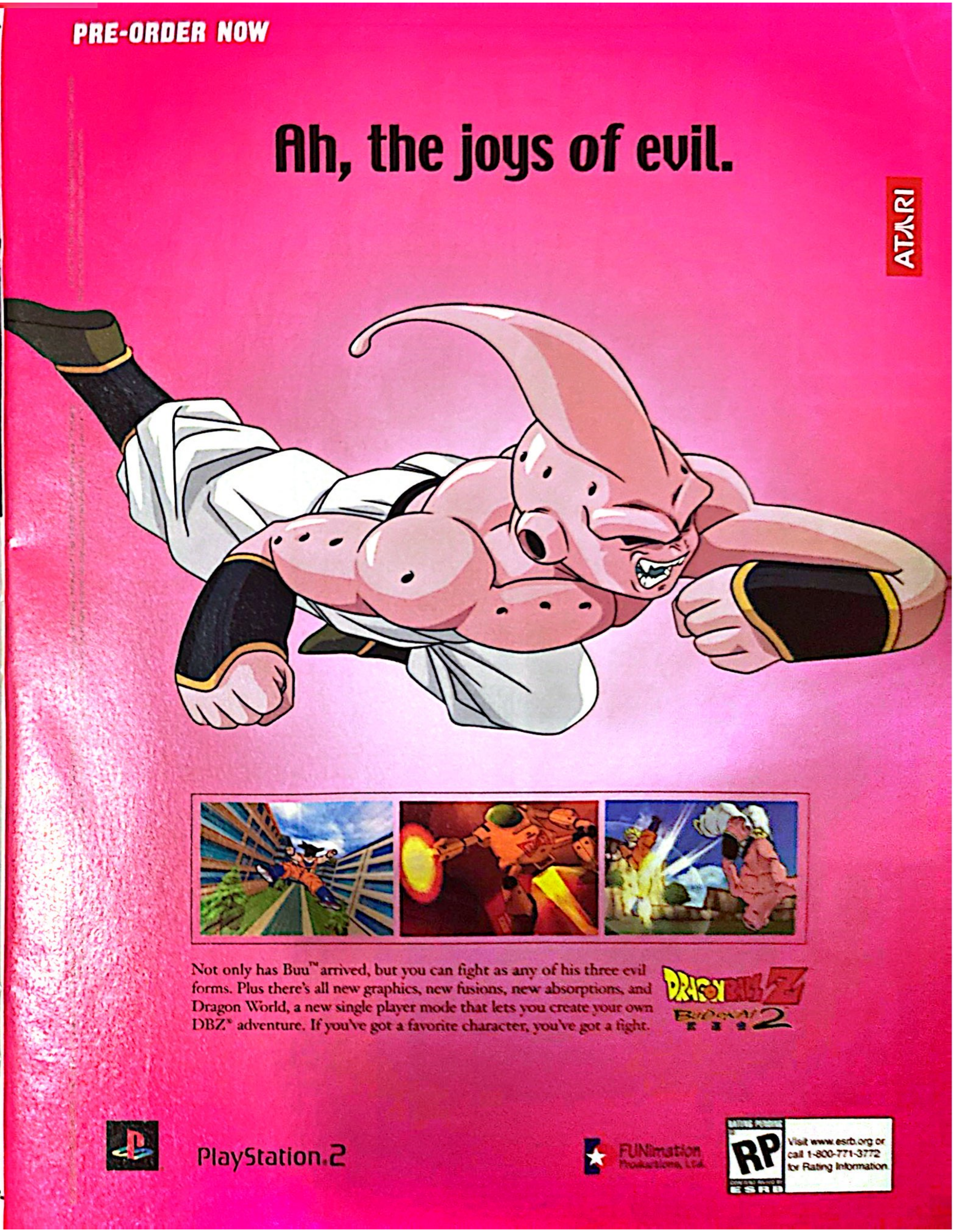


**BLAST INTO THE PAST** Actress Chiyoko takes interviewer Kyoji on a wild ride through her career. Below, an anguished, younger Chiyoko.

## VITAL STATS

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SATOSHI KON

**BIRTHDATE** October 12, 1963
**MAJOR INFLUENCES** Katsuhiro Otomo, Osamu Tezuka
**FIRST ANIME JOB** Background art and production design for *Roujin Z*
**FAVORITE JAPANESE FILM** *The Seven Samurai*
**FAVORITE WESTERN FILM** *The World According to Garp*
**WEBSITE** http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~s-kon (Japanese)
**DIRECTOR'S CREDITS** *Perfect Blue* (1997): A singer-turned-actress is being stalked by a madman...or is she?
*Millennium Actress* (2001): The history of Japan unfolds as an actress recounts her life to a film crew searching for a secret.
**COMING SOON** *Tokyo Godfathers* (2003): Three homeless people find a baby in a dumpster on Christmas Day and go on a quest to find the baby's parents.
**TEZUKA WORSHIP** "I have seen a few of the [new *Astro Boy*] episodes, but the *Astro Boy* that I knew is no more." ■ TS



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BANDAI

BY LIANNE SENTAR

# A.I. FIVE

## THE TOP 5 REASONS YOU'LL LOVE THIS SERIES

# LAST EXILE

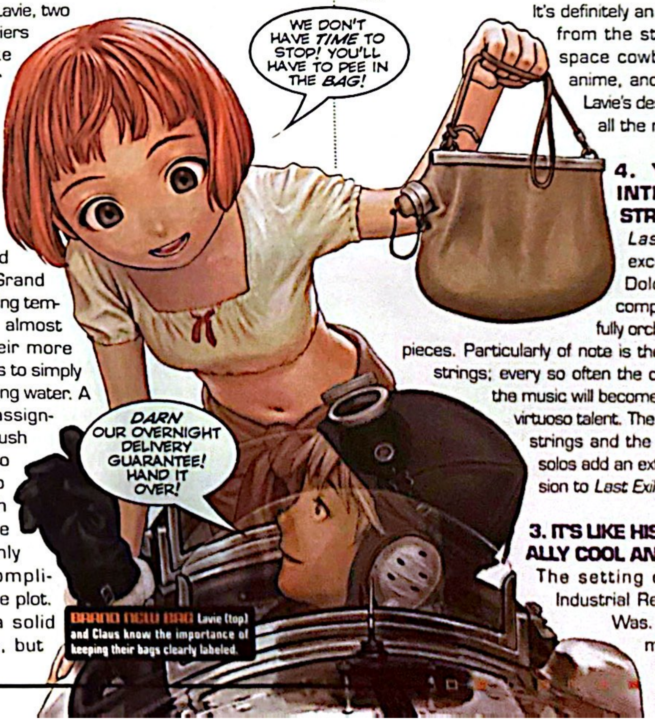
## THROUGH POVERTY AND WAR, THESE GONZO TEENS DELIVER THE GOODS

Humankind has always been fascinated by the sky. It's why every kid dreams of being a pilot, why da Vinci was obsessed with wings, and why the Wright Brothers happily crashed so many times before they flew at Kitty Hawk in 1903.

Few anime dare to dwell between the Earth and outer space, but *Last Exile*—Studio GONZO's 10th anniversary epic about life and airships—revives our fundamental fascination with the endless blue to satisfy all who think Miyazaki's *Castle in the Sky* has been too long without a genre mate.

Meet Claus and Lavie, two teenage flying couriers struggling to make ends meet with their small plane (known as a Vanship) and their precocious piloting skill. Their lifelong dream is to fly through the "Grand Stream" to see what lies beyond it, but since the Grand Stream is an unending tempest that leads to almost certain death, their more immediate dream is to simply acquire clean drinking water. A few key delivery assignments eventually push Claus and Lavie into a dangerous airship war raging through their skies, and the kids' lives suddenly grow more complicated...as does the plot.

*Last Exile* is a solid adventure series, but its intrigue and mature themes expand its appeal to draw in all kinds of fans. The show only began airing on Japan's TV-Tokyo this April, but Pioneer's already set a Volume 1 DVD release for November 18th—and these five reasons are just a few of why you should be standing in line *now.*


WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO STOP! YOU'LL HAVE TO PEE IN THE *BAG!*
*DARN* OUR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY GUARANTEE! HAND IT OVER!

**BRAND NEW BAG** Lavie (top) and Claus know the importance of keeping their bags clearly labeled.

### 5. THE HEROES ARE SUPER FED-EXERS!

That's right, the leads of our sky war epic are basically early post office Employees of the Month. Neither rain nor hail nor enemy airship bomb volley will stop them from delivering your sweetheart's latest love note in 30 minutes or less. It's definitely an interesting deviation from the standard samurai or space cowboy heroes of most anime, and it makes Claus and Lavie's descent into war intrigue all the more tragic.

### 4. YOU'LL ENJOY INTENSE IN-FLIGHT STRING SOLOS

*Last Exile* features an excellent soundtrack by Dolce Triade, from the compelling opening to the fully orchestrated background pieces. Particularly of note is the small group of lead strings; every so often the orchestra will cut and the music will become an intricate dance of virtuoso talent. The personality of the lead strings and the solid writing of their solos add an extra and unique dimension to *Last Exile*'s sound.

### 3. IT'S LIKE HISTORY...BUT ACTUALLY COOL AND INTERESTING

The setting of Prestale is the Industrial Revolution That Never Was. Putting historical elements in a blender—

# GOING GONZO

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ONE OF TODAY'S HOTTEST ANIME STUDIOS

*Last Exile* marks a decade of production for GONZO, but the powerhouse studio has done anything but slack off in its old age. Since the release of its first anime (*Blue Submarine No. 6*) in 1998, it's produced more than a dozen titles. It's been difficult for other studios to keep up with GONZO's fluid animation and massive CG integration, not to mention the popularity and surprising exposure many of GONZO's titles fetch.

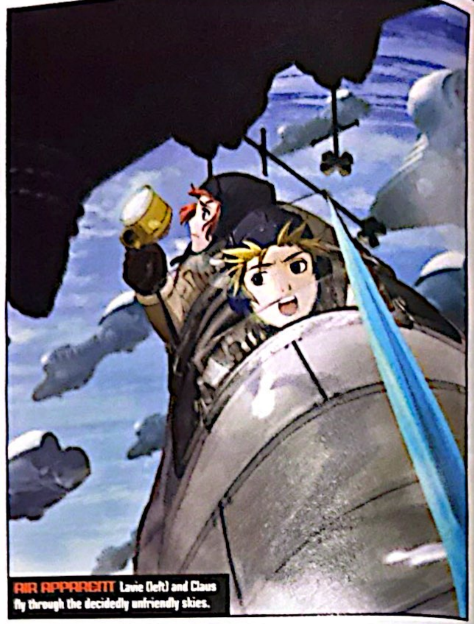
The studio was first founded at the turn of the '90s by current president Shoji Murahama and several partners, many of whom (including Murahama) had recently left the renown Studio GAINAX of *Evangelion* fame. Early projects of GONZO's included live-action work and videogames—including the Sega CD original *Lunar: Silver Star Story*—although it wasn't until 1998 that they released their *Blue Submarine No. 6* OVA. The short series' completely digital production and final product's heavy computer graphics set a standard for GONZO, now known for its uninhibited application of (and experimentation with) CG in anime. GONZO's breakneck production schedule has flooded the anime industry with a plethora of titles ranging all over the genre spectrum. For a quick sampling:

**VANDREAD (2000)** When humankind dares to venture further into space, a fundamental war between boys and girls rocks civilization. In the middle of things, a techie named Hibiki suddenly finds himself among the enemy—including Dita, left—and hilarity ensues. This short TV series was popular enough to spawn a second.

**HELLSING (2001)** The British Hellsing Organization was created to stop vampires and demons from wreaking havoc among the living, yet with them walks a mysterious vampire named Arucard (right) who fights for the humans.

**FULL METAL PANIC! (2002)** Schoolgirl Kaname Chidori is being chased by a dangerous agency, so the anti-terrorist force Mithril dispatches unsubtle teenage agent and military nut Sousuke Sagara into her school to protect her.

**KALEIDOSTAR (2003)** 16-year-old orphan Sora Naegino (right) dreams of being a star. She leaves Japan for America to make her debut against the colorful backdrop of the entertainment industry, but there's a long and difficult road ahead of her if she's to make her dreams come true. It's not yet released in America. ■ LS



**AIR APPARENT** Lavie (left) and Claus fly through the decidedly unfriendly skies.

Claus and Lavie are very 18th-century German, while the Anatore fleet is as stuffy as Revolutionary War-era Britain—it still enjoys its own unique technology and fantastical elements. That means even historical fiction/fantasy fans can get a kick out of *Last Exile*, and those who revere the steampunk genre owe it to themselves to check it out.

### 2. LOOKS SO GOOD, YOU'LL FORGET IT'S NOT REAL

Forget glittery costumes, wildly [illegible] and flashy ships; *Last Exile*'s designs and world are both tastefully subtle and surprisingly believable. The talent of character designer Range Murata (known for his work on *Blue Submarine No. 6*) is well showcased by the simple but very appealing character designs. Top that with baggy flight suits, unpainted planes and dirty water for the poor, and Prestale becomes a gritty world that is easy to believe exists.

### 1. IT'S GONZO! 'NUFF SAID!

Studio GONZO (*Hellsing, Full Metal Panic*) is known for two things: beautiful animation and willingness to experiment. They've tackled everything from space comedies to super schoolkids in a variety of tones, and while not all their works are masterpieces, they've certainly crafted some beautiful gems. Simply the fact that *Last Exile* is their 10th anniversary piece deems it worth a watch. The attention and loving care the studio lavishes on its anniversary tale really shines through! ●

---

*You can visit freelance writer Lianne Sentar's Skygarden at liannesentar.com. But take your shoes off when you enter.*

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FEATURE

BANDAI

侵食汚染 .hack Part 3 OUTBREAK

In the 3rd chapter of the .hack saga, "The World" continues to deteriorate as the virus spreads out of control, and crosses the increasingly transient line separating "The World" and reality. As Kite, you must battle your way through "The World" before it implodes. In fact, you're faced with the possibility that this virus might be unstoppable.

Luckily for us, the .hack series is a simulated MMORPG, so at least the virus can't spread to this world!

publisher Bandai//developer Cyber Connect 2
genre Simulated MMORPG//release date Fall 2003

In OUTBREAK, you'll fight your way through contaminated servers and eliminate enemies. The plot thickens, and the story draws you in further as you try to uncover the cause of this debilitating virus and rescue your friend Orca, who's still in a coma.

I love part 3 and am addicted to the completely original gaming experience that .hack offers. I enjoyed part 1, and became addicted with part 2. The battles and story intensified, and the cast grew to include online/offline players. Moreover, the simulation of playing an online game

A great story and addictive gameplay.

Encounter characters from the animated TV series.

deepened with emails and news items that drew me further into "The World".

This series keeps getting better and better, plus you also get a new episode of the original video animation of ".hack//LIMINALITY" in the same box.

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# SHIROW MUST GO ON

## The manga master's classic 'Appleseed' is back, and CGI anime will never be the same

BY TOM ROOT

When anime fans sleep, they dream of beautiful cyborgs. And Masamune Shirow knows beautiful cyborgs.

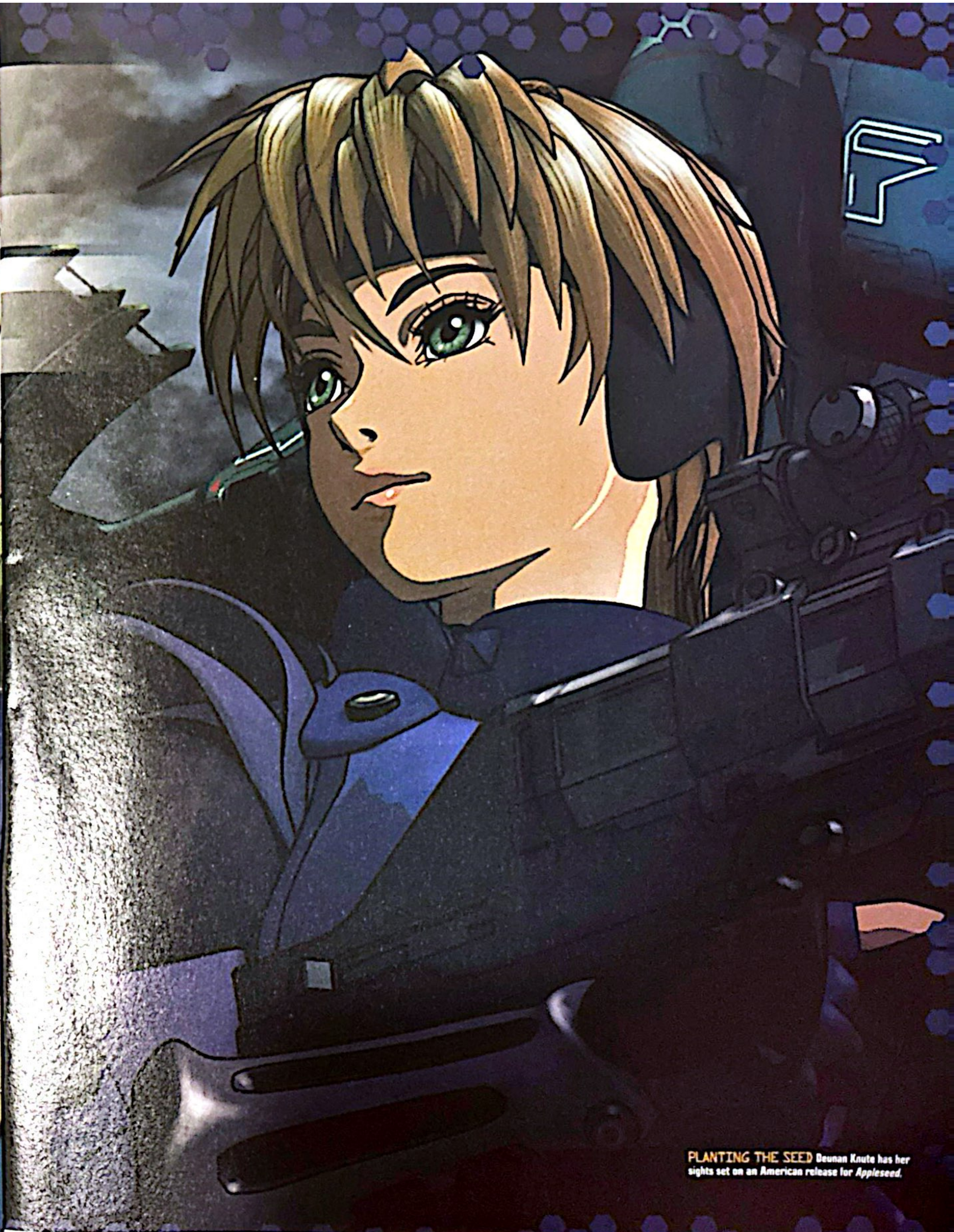
In fact, the creator of *Ghost in the Shell* knows beauty and cyborgs so well, he's devoted his life's work to dreaming up new realities for them. But his fantasies of half-robots and computer-ruled worlds have been limited by the hard realities of printed pages and animation cels.

Until now.

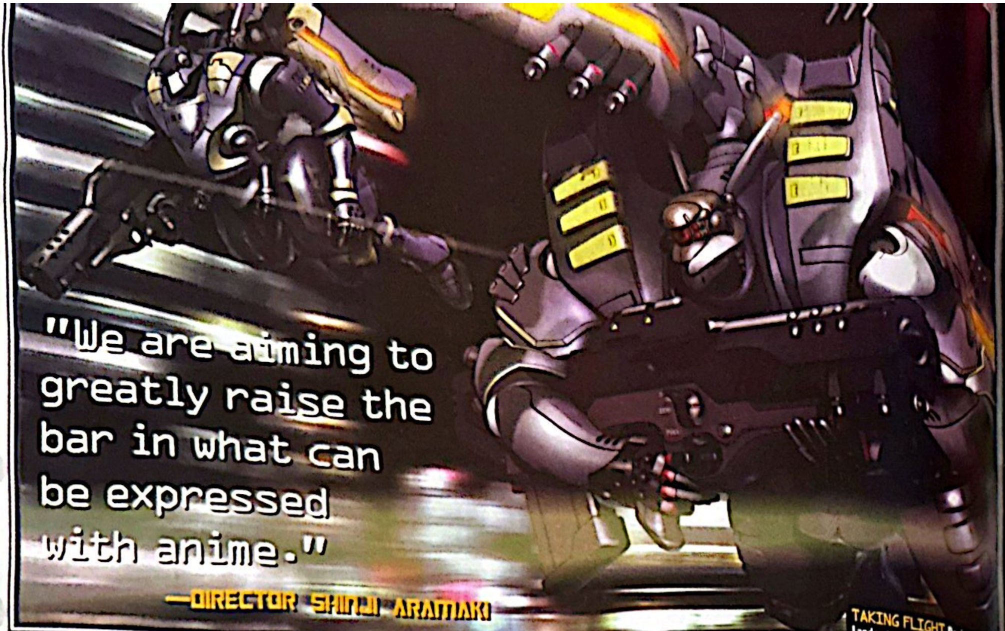
Micott & Basara, Inc., the Japanese production company behind such cult horror hits as *Ichi the Killer* and *Uzumaki*, have dedicated themselves to bringing Shirow's classic manga *Appleseed* into a whole new world of computer-realized 3D wonder. Set for an April release in Japan, they're working feverishly to license a 2004 U.S. release.

Pray that they get it, not just so you can see it, but but to help prove these visionaries right. You see, Shirow's classic tale of post-apocalyptic cops and 'bots was chosen for Micott & Basara's first animated feature because of its "suitability to make a movie that blends CGI and 2D anime elements," explains executive producer Sumiji Miyake. "That, combined with our desire to make an anime with international appeal, inspired us to create the [new] movie version of *Appleseed*."

Dream no more, anime fans. The film is coming.



**PLANTING THE SEED** Deunan Knute has her sights set on an American release for *Appleseed*.



> "We are aiming to greatly raise the bar in what can be expressed with anime."
>
> —DIRECTOR SHINJI ARAMAKI

**TAKING FLIGHT** Designs like the Landmate armor Briareos (right) a are possible in 3D CG.

## PLANTING THE SEED

Originally a series of graphic novels which Shirow debuted in 1985, *Appleseed* takes place on an Earth devastated by World War III. Heroes Deunan Knute, a former S.W.A.T. member, and her cyborg boyfriend Briareos struggle for survival in Olympus City, populated by human/machine hybrids called bioroids. Four volumes of *Appleseed* were released, but the fifth never materialized and the story remains uncompleted. An anime movie appeared in 1988, but don't look for the new film to call upon the original anime for inspiration.

"We are basing this movie on the original comic rather than the previous animation," Miyake says. "The characters, their backgrounds and the story are based on the original comic." But even if you haven't read the manga, don't fret. "We are also looking to create a piece of entertainment that will entertain both fans of the original comic as well as people new to the *Appleseed* universe," he says.

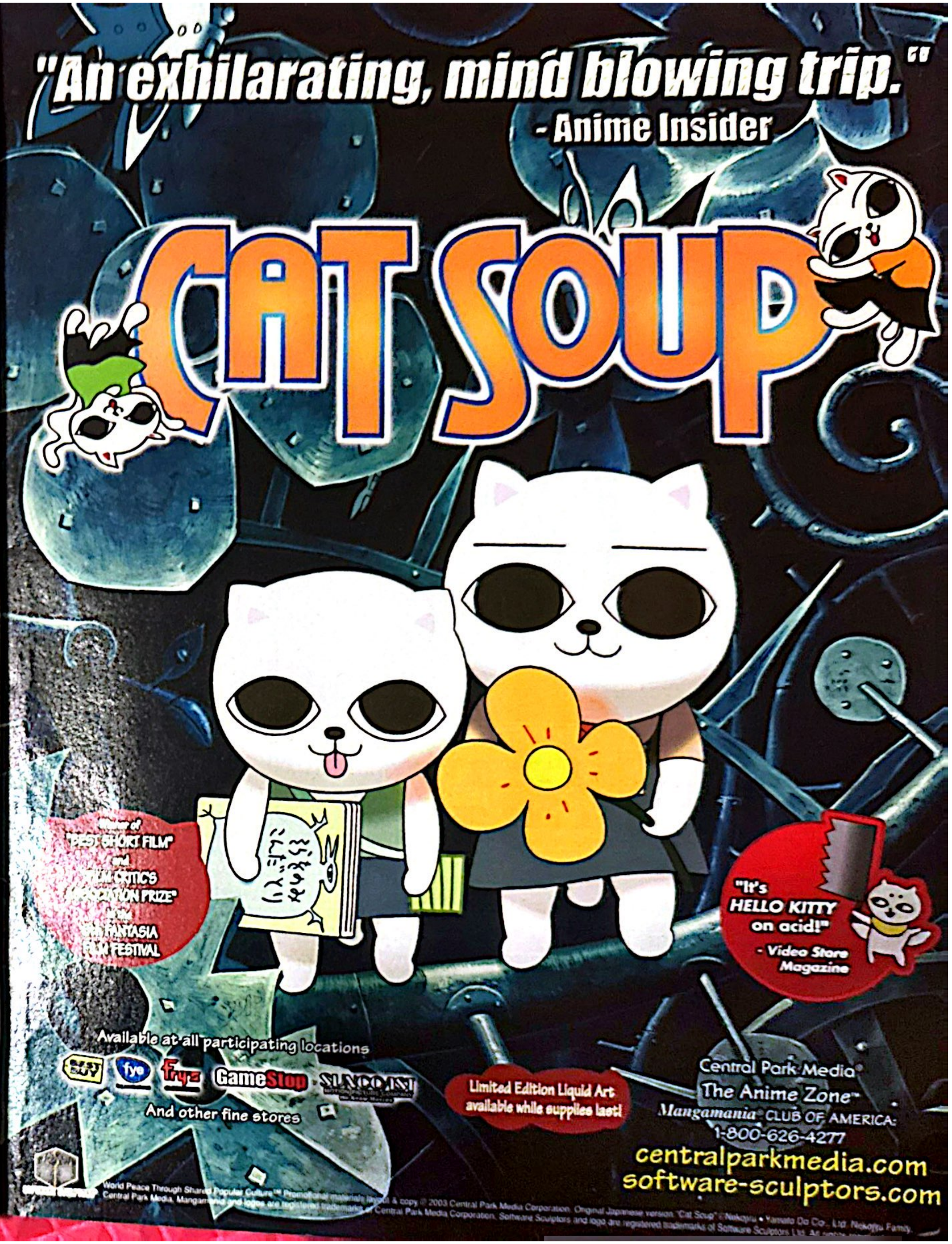
"It is an original story," says Michael Hanna, international marketing rep for Micott & Basara. "The story features the main characters which appear in the manga." In the new story, bioroids are threatened by human rebels, so Deunan and Briareos are charged with the task of collecting data that can initiate the bioroids' reproductive functions and give the new race a fighting chance. Soon, however, Deunan realizes her bosses on the Council of Elders aren't telling her the whole truth, and she must decide whether to choose between the bioroids or humanity.

## WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

The unique visual combination of 2D and 3D animation was chosen to capture the full range of Shirow's style, Miyake says. "We felt that when making a movie version of *Appleseed*, the best approach would be one that combines the expression that traditional cel animation provides with the realism of CG," he says. "Basically all the elements of the movie are 3D CG. However, we have used a process whereby the pe ple in the movie are given a 2D lo Essentially the movie is '2D/3D Japa imation.' We thought this approa would be perfect to bring the *Applese* universe to life."

Director Shinji Aramaki, who supe vised *AD Police Files* and designe mecha for *Bubblegum Crisis* (and ev the American cartoon *M.A.S.K.*) agrees. "This was the first of Shirow works to illustrate a vision of the futu and was filled with interesting chara ters, mecha...and great action scene he says. "3D CG can bring all of the elements to a greater level of existenc Aramaki specifically points to the Lan mates, robotic vehicles worn by th pilots, as an example of how 3D C provides a better representation th mere 2D ever could.

"However, this animation is not bei made simply with the intention of dem strating what 3D CG can do, althou I won't deny that is part of it," Aram says. "Nor is it being made as ma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## APPLES COR

**New to the world of 'Appleseed?' It's about time you learned the major players**

### DEUNAN KNUTE

A cool cop who's now a member of E-SWAT in Olympus. Combat ready and confident, our heroine shows her softer side only for her former boyfriend, the cyborg Briareos.

### BRIAREOS HECATONCHIRES

Once human, an accident forced Briareos into his current cyborg state. On the bright side, he now has a full range of electronic enhancements, including added speed and strength, that make him very good at E-SWAT.

### HITOMI

This Bioroid citizen is Deunan's friend, which is good, since she'll need all the help she can get. Although she looks like a teenage girl, she's actually 55 years old. Freaky.

### SEVEN ELDERS OF THE LEGISLATION

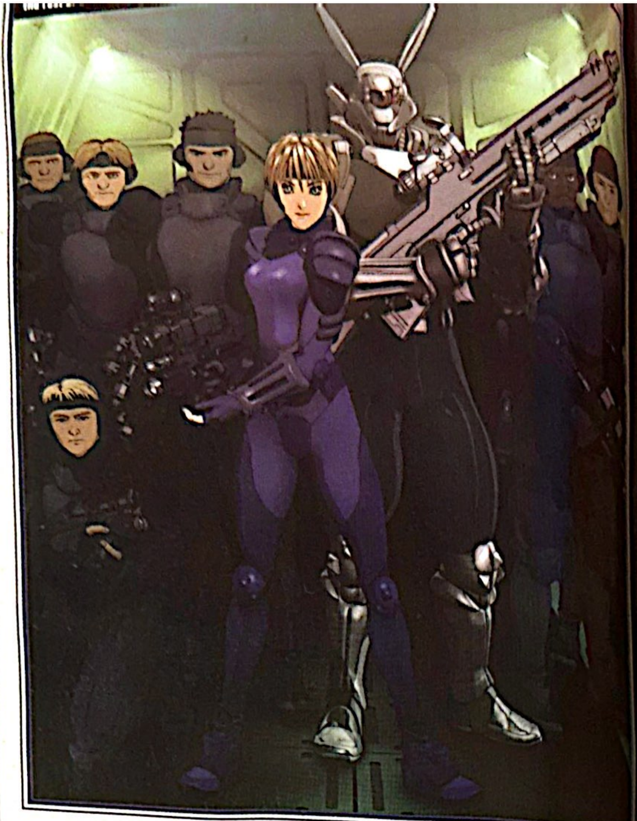
The panel of Elders determines the future course for Olympus City, but not alone—the supercomputer Gaia also has more than a little say-so in the city's governance.

### ATHENA

Athena is the head of Olympus City Administration and a major power broker in Olympus. She has little compassion for human beings, and merely uses them to achieve her goals.

### COLONEL HADES

A new character from the Olympus Regular Army, Colonel Hades has no love for those pesky Bioroids. ■ TR



of replacing cel animation. I see CG as a new tool to make possible the images I want to create...we are aiming to greatly raise the bar in what can be expressed with anime and this is the big challenge for us."

The process hasn't always been a walk in the park. "In terms of problems, this is the first time something like this has been attempted, so naturally it has been very challenging to get the look we were aiming for," Miyake says, but stresses that the results will definitely be worth the trouble.

## A LABOR OF LOVE

Shirow himself has rolled up his sleeves to pitch in. "With *Appleseed*, we are consulting with Shirow and have his input into every element of the film, from script to character design and development," Miyake says proudly.

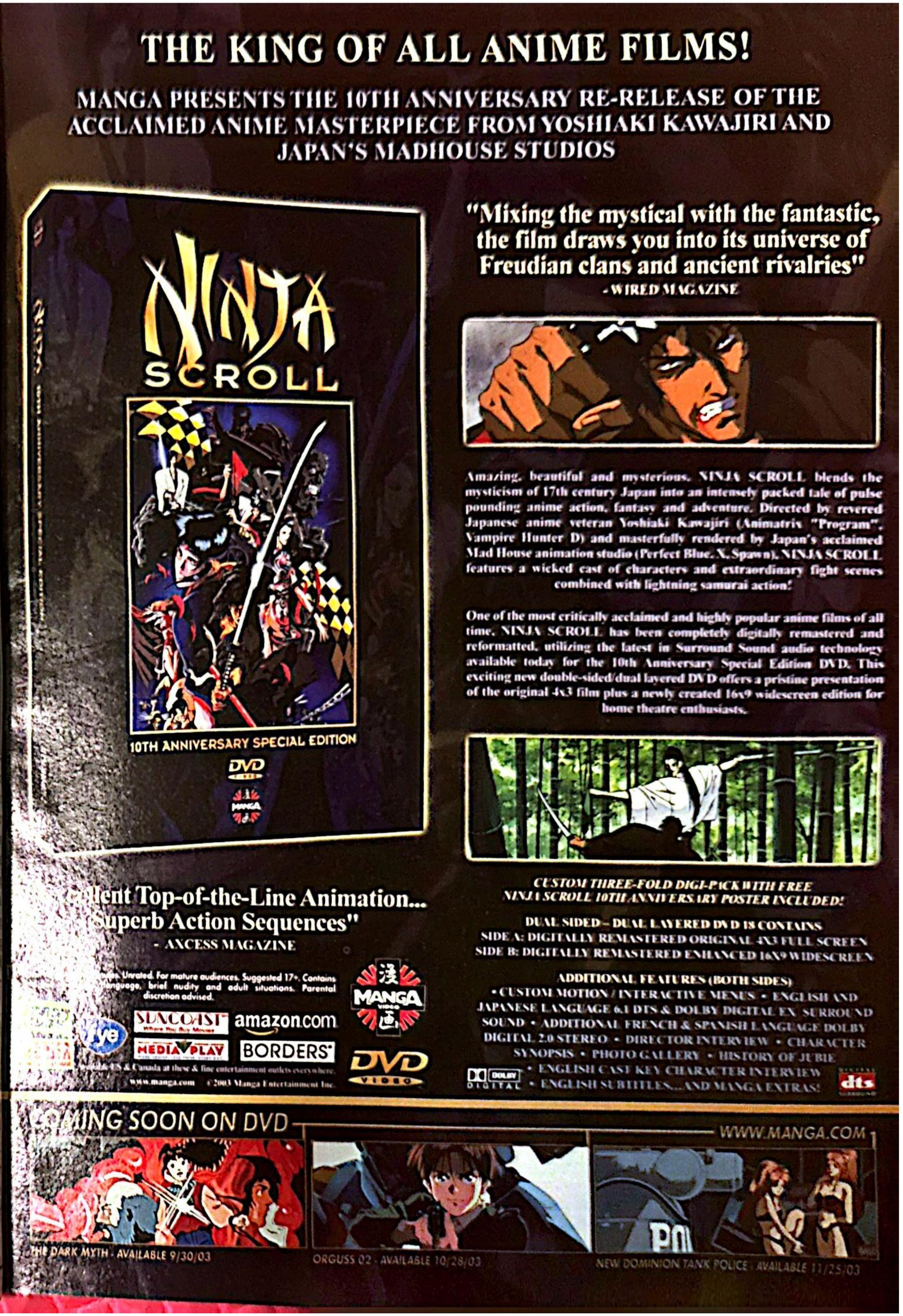
And it's a love for Shirow's work that motivates the members of the creative team. "If this hadn't been *Appleseed*, I think it's fair to say I don't think I would have undertaken the project," director Aramaki says. "This was Masamune Shirow's commercial debut, and I have been an enthusiastic reader of his since the time when his work was self-published. I am originally a mechanical designer, so I hold Masamune Shirow in great respect and have been influenced by him."

"Since I was a student, drawing com and illustrations was a hobby of mine a Masamune Shirow was a big influence me," says Yoshiharu Komiya, one of background team designers for Dig Frontier, the studio charged with bring this new version to life. "I think his gr est attraction is even when us exaggerated artwork, he keeps a feel of reality in his mecha designs. You re get the feeling of his fascination weapons and mecha."

Shirow's fascinations have a tende to be contagious. Anime fans arou the world have marveled at Shirow's and storytelling. In 2004 international audience can now witne the rebirth of *Appleseed*.

---

*Orlando-based freelance writer T Root walks this great country with no ing but a bag of apple seeds vagrancy charges.*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"Mixing the mystical with the fantastic, the film draws you into its universe of Freudian clans and ancient rivalries"
- WIRED MAGAZINE

Amazing, beautiful and mysterious, NINJA SCROLL blends the mysticism of 17th century Japan into an intensely packed tale of pulse pounding anime action, fantasy and adventure. Directed by revered Japanese anime veteran Yoshiaki Kawajiri (Animatrix "Program", Vampire Hunter D) and masterfully rendered by Japan's acclaimed Mad House animation studio (Perfect Blue, X, Spawn), NINJA SCROLL features a wicked cast of characters and extraordinary fight scenes combined with lightning samurai action!

One of the most critically acclaimed and highly popular anime films of all time, NINJA SCROLL has been completely digitally remastered and reformatted, utilizing the latest in Surround Sound audio technology available today for the 10th Anniversary Special Edition DVD. This exciting new double-sided/dual layered DVD offers a pristine presentation of the original 4x3 film plus a newly created 16x9 widescreen edition for home theatre enthusiasts.

"...llent Top-of-the-Line Animation... Superb Action Sequences"
- AXCESS MAGAZINE

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# THE 'ANIME INSIDER' PREVIEW OF HELLSING

## Dark Horse is finally bringing the 'Hellsing' manga to U.S. shores—and you can sink your fangs into it here first!

I'M SACRE-LICIOUS!
Jesus Christ is in Heaven now

Get ready for a bloody good time—and we do mean *bloody.* On December 3, Dark Horse and Digital Manga present the first English-adapted volume of *Hellsing*, the action-horror manga from creator Kouta Hirano. But as you can tell from the tempting pages that follow, we won't make you wait that long for a taste!

Many readers might already be familiar with *Hellsing* through the Pioneer-released anime, but for you neophytes, get ready for "a politically charged, bloody battle to the un-death," says editor Tim Ervin-Gore. "The combination of a dark subject, frenetic action, splashy gore, and a modern, svelte art style makes for a winning combo."

And that's got fans hungry for the manga, too. "The manga certainly seems to flesh out the story a lot more, and concentrates on different characters and gives them more depth, as manga simply can do better than anime," he continues.

The story breaks down thusly: an Illuminati-type group called the Hellsing Organization exists to protect England from vampires and other underworldly creatures. "Their best vamp buster is an old vampire, somehow made to serve humans," Ervin-Gore explains, although exactly how remains a mystery. Once the story picks up steam, readers can watch for exciting battles, include one Ervin-Gore says, "starts between the Catholics and Protestants in, of all places, Ireland!"

*Hellsing* will be released in digest-sized graphic novel form; the second volume arrives March 17, and fans can expect another volume every three months. Staying true to its roots, Hellsing retains its original Japanese right-to-left direction on the page.

But just because the pages aren't flip-flopped doesn't mean the editor's job is easy. For instance, translating the character names has become a tricky proposition—the vampire Alucard has previously been known as "Arucard" because of the Japanese adaptation of English words. "We're doing our best to represent the creator's wishes," Ervin-Gore sighed. "It's a tough one, but I hope we keep as many people happy as possible."

*Orlando-based freelance writer Tom Root drinks the blood of tourists and Republicans.*

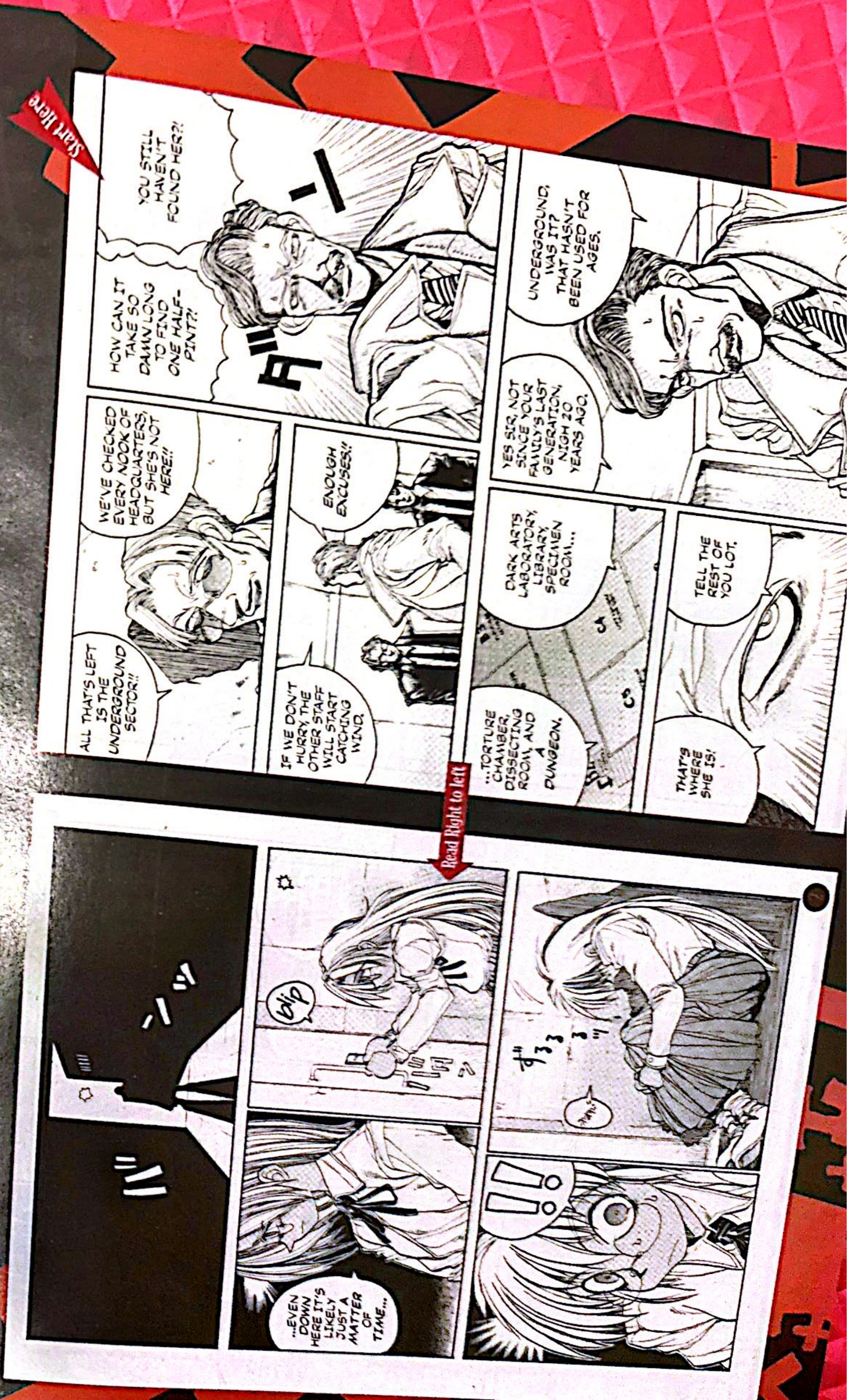
## IN THESE PAGES...

*The scenes in this preview are from the second chapter of volume one and take place in the past. "It's part of a flashback sequence, featuring characters most anime fans might not recognize right away because they're younger," reveals editor Tim Ervin-Gore. "It is a flashback, after all."*

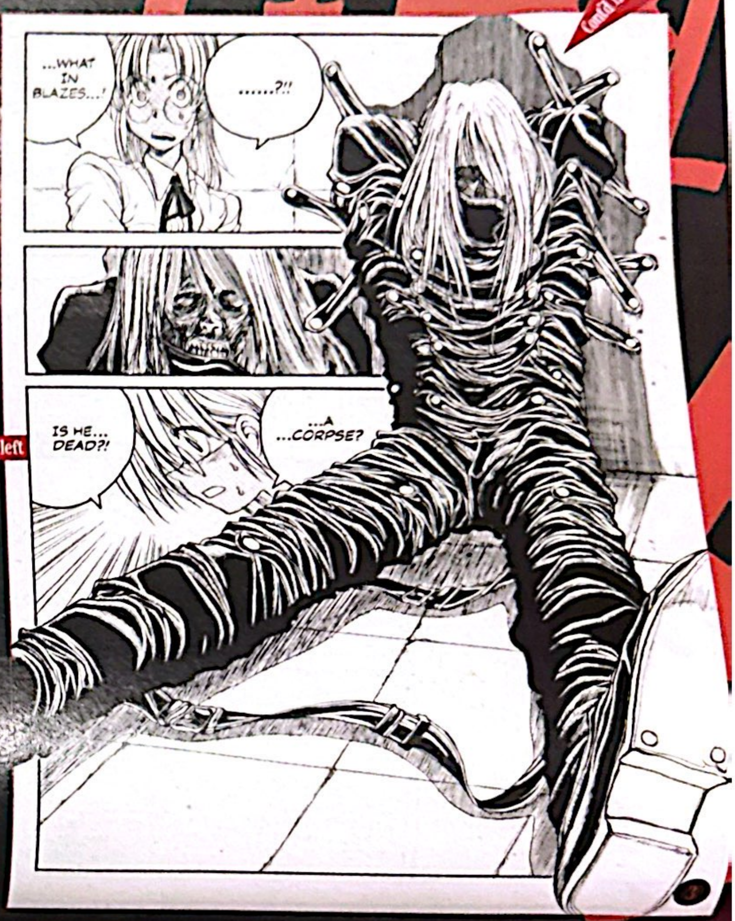
*It seems young Integra Wingates' father has died, leaving the Hellsing Organization in her hands. But her uncle doesn't agree with that decision, and wants Integra dead. Her only hope is to find a mysterious legacy, left behind by her father and hidden deep within Hellsing's headquarters. The hunt is on, and time is running out.*

*Got it? Good! Now, turn the magazine sideways and prepare yourself for the chills, thrills and blood spills that await!* ■ **TR**

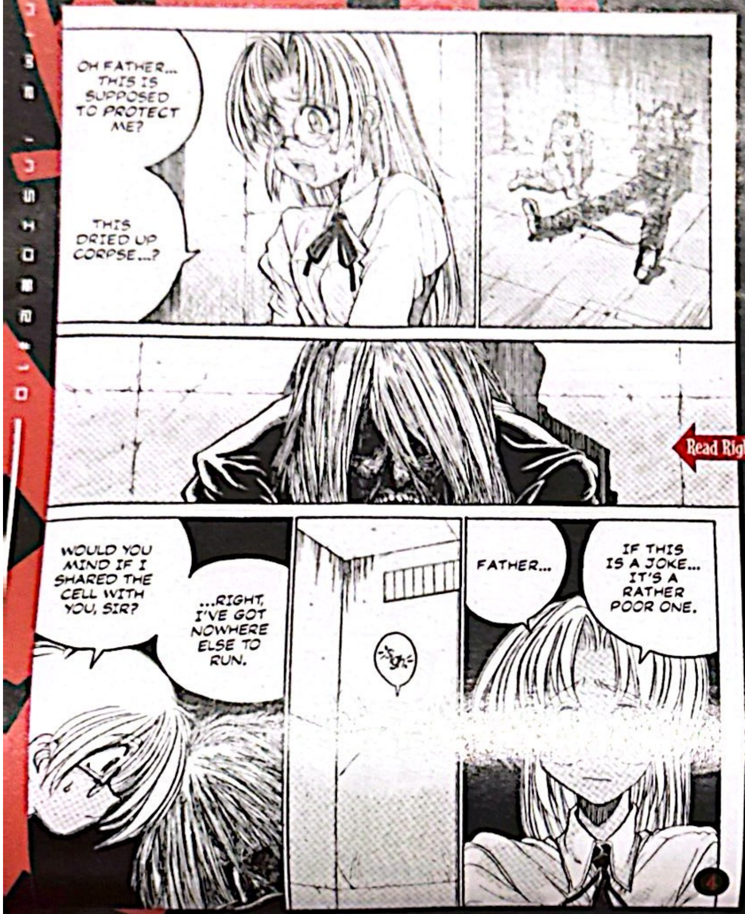
Read 1 ← The 2
Pages 3
This 4 ← Way 5


Start Here
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HER?!
HOW CAN IT TAKE SO DAMN LONG TO FIND ONE HALF-PINT?!
WE'VE CHECKED EVERY NOOK OF HEADQUARTERS, BUT SHE'S NOT HERE!!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE UNDERGROUND SECTOR!!
ENOUGH EXCUSES!!
IF WE DON'T HURRY, THE OTHER STAFF WILL START CATCHING WIND.
UNDERGROUND, WAS IT? THAT HASN'T BEEN USED FOR AGES.
YES SIR, NOT SINCE YOUR FAMILY'S LAST GENERATION, NIGH 20 YEARS AGO.
DARK ARTS LABORATORY, LIBRARY, SPECIMEN ROOM...
...TORTURE CHAMBER, DISSECTING ROOM, AND A DUNGEON.
TELL THE REST OF YOU LOT.
THAT'S WHERE SHE IS!
Read Right to left
blip
...EVEN DOWN HERE IT'S LIKELY JUST A MATTER OF TIME...
!!

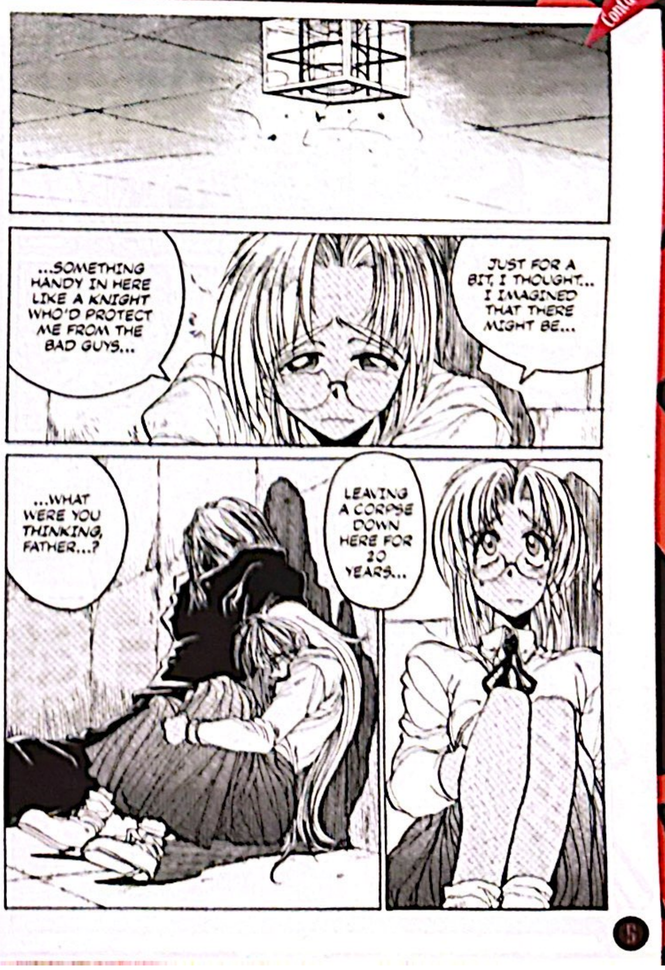
Cont'd Here


......?!!
...WHAT IN BLAZES...!
...A ...CORPSE?
IS HE... DEAD?!
3

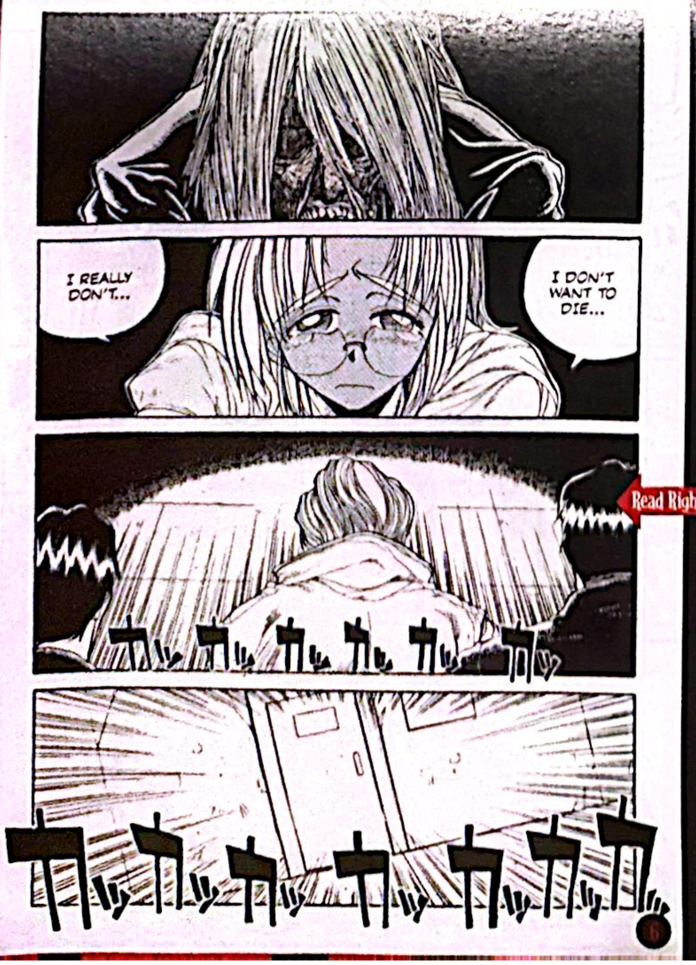
Read Right to left


OH FATHER... THIS IS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT ME?
THIS DRIED UP CORPSE...?
IF THIS IS A JOKE... IT'S A RATHER POOR ONE.
FATHER...
...RIGHT, I'VE GOT NOWHERE ELSE TO RUN.
WOULD YOU MIND IF I SHARED THE CELL WITH YOU, SIR?
4

Cont'd Here


JUST FOR A BIT, I THOUGHT... I IMAGINED THERE MIGHT BE...
...SOMETHING HANDY IN HERE LIKE A KNIGHT WHO'D PROTECT ME FROM THE BAD GUYS...
LEAVING A CORPSE DOWN HERE FOR 20 YEARS...
...WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, FATHER...?
5

Read Right to left


I DON'T WANT TO DIE...
I REALLY DON'T...
カッ カッ カッ カッ カッ カッ
カッ カッ カッ カッ カッ カッ!!
6

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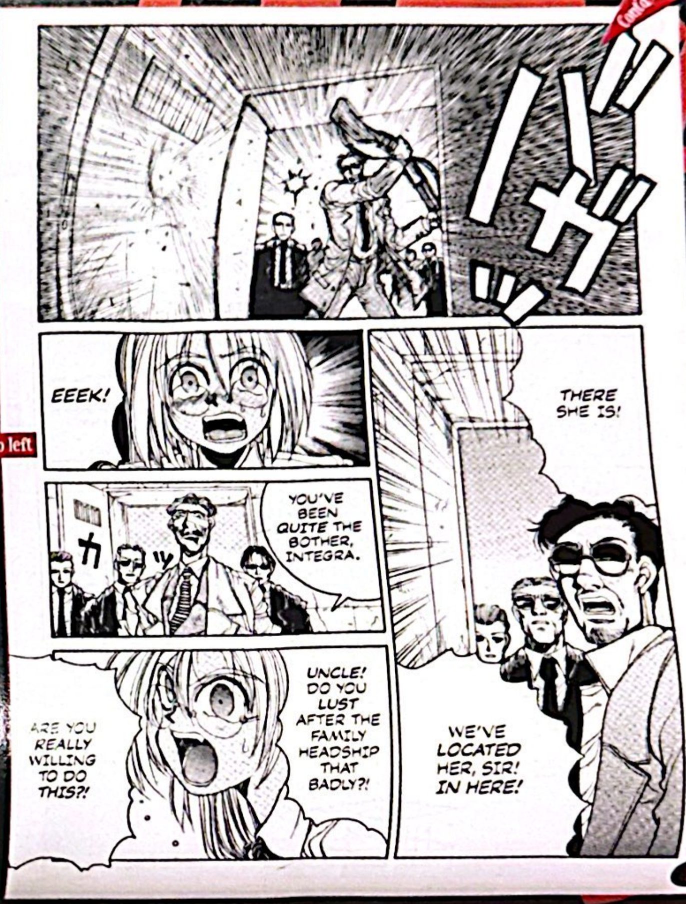
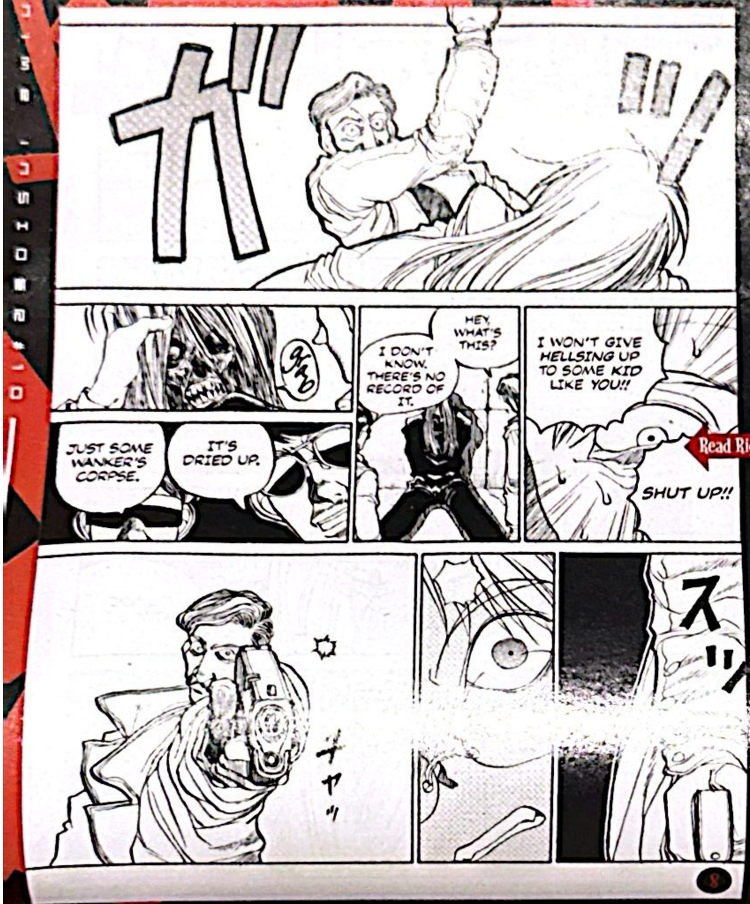
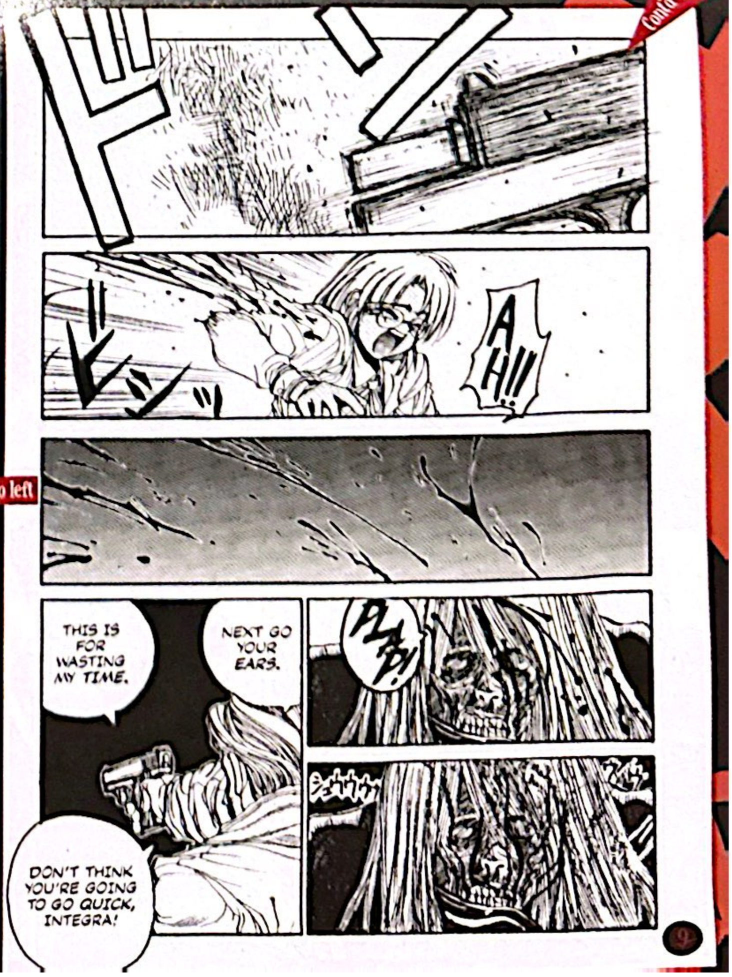

THERE SHE IS!
WE'VE LOCATED HER, SIR! IN HERE!
EEEK!
YOU'VE BEEN QUITE THE BOTHER, INTEGRA.
カッ
UNCLE! DO YOU LUST AFTER THE FAMILY HEADSHIP THAT BADLY?!
ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO DO THIS?!

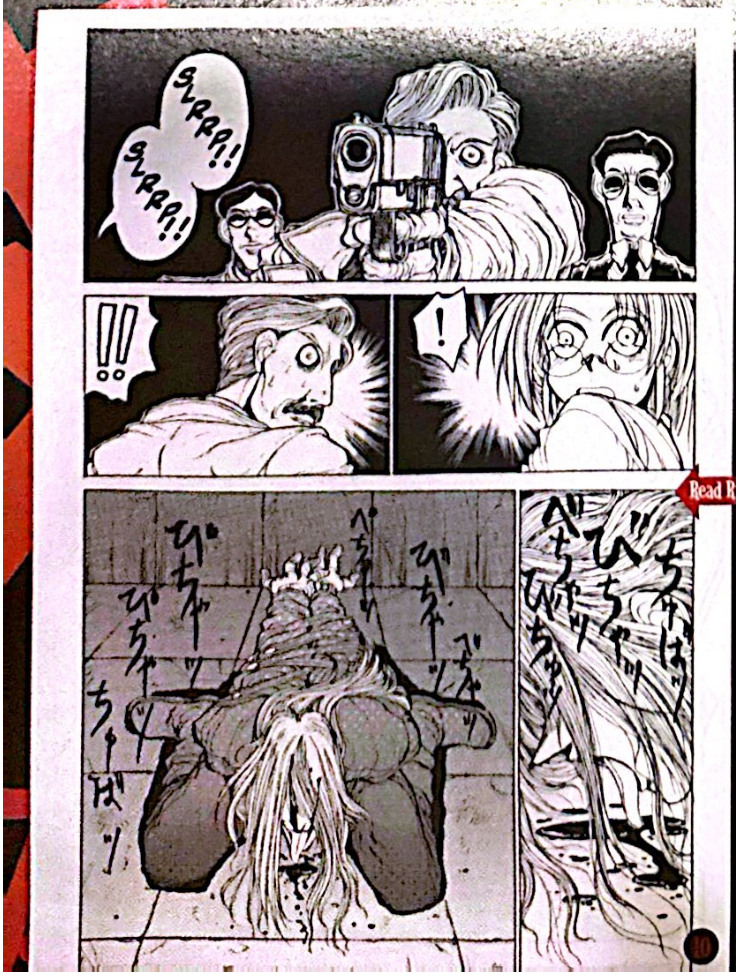
Read Right to left

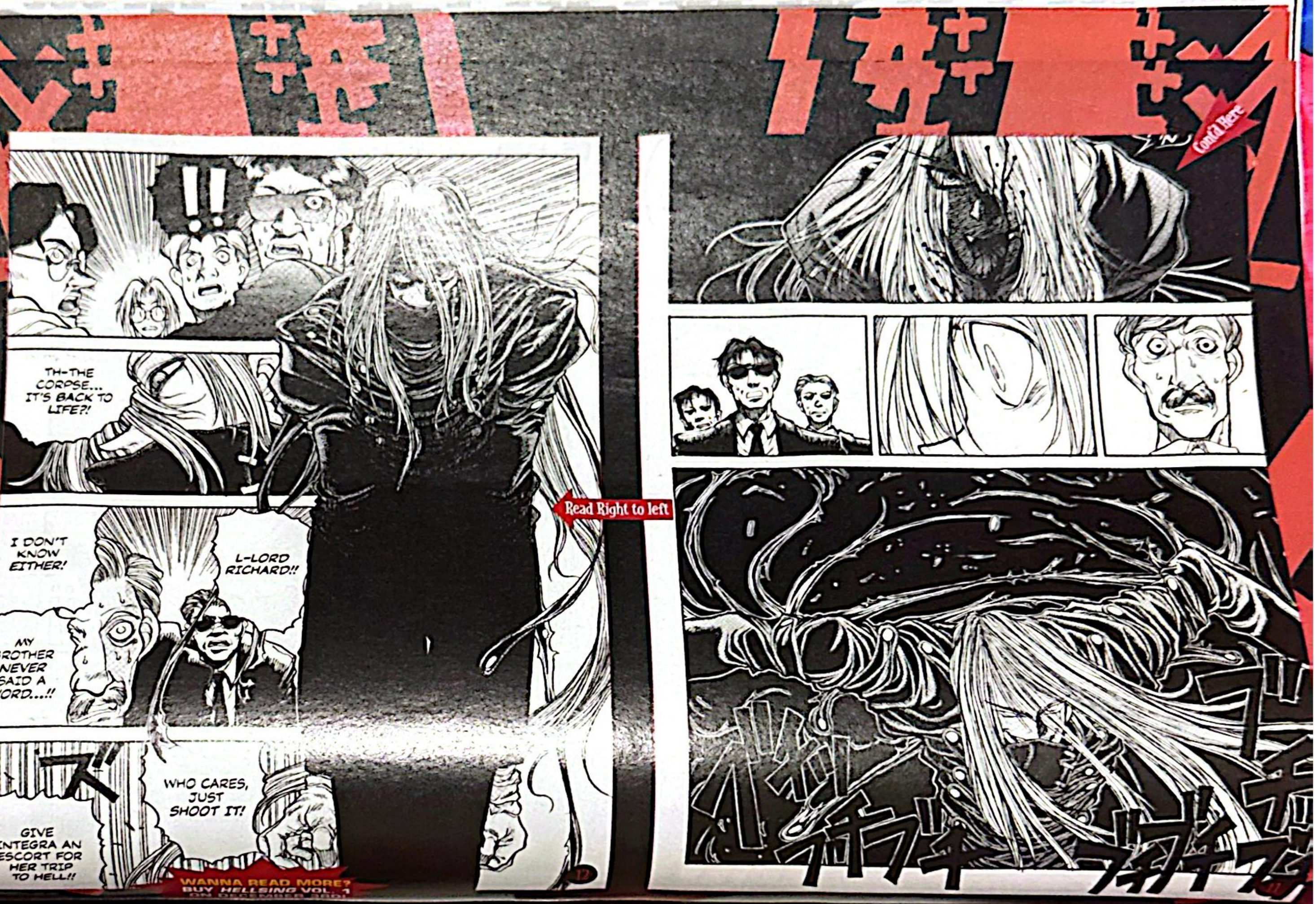

I WON'T GIVE HELLSING UP TO SOME KID LIKE YOU!!
SHUT UP!!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S NO RECORD OF IT.
IT'S DRIED UP.
JUST SOME WANKER'S CORPSE.
スッ
チャッ

Cont'd Here


AH!!
NEXT GO YOUR EARS.
THIS IS FOR WASTING MY TIME.
DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GO QUICK, INTEGRA!

Read Right to left


SLRPP!!
SLRPP!!
!
!!


Cont'd Here
Read Right to left
!!
TH-THE CORPSE... IT'S BACK TO LIFE?!
L-LORD RICHARD!!
I DON'T KNOW EITHER!
MY BROTHER NEVER SAID A WORD...!!
WHO CARES, JUST SHOOT IT!
GIVE INTEGRA AN ESCORT FOR HER TRIP TO HELL!!
12
11

WANNA READ MORE?
BUY *HELLSING* VOL. 1
ON DECEMBER 3RD!

NOTE TO SELF:
WATER FAIRY MAKES
LOUSY DEFENSE AGAINST
GIANT PYRO DRAGON!

Culdcept... The magical card-based, land acquisition video game has swept Japan and now has its sights set on the USA.

PlayStation®2

TEEN
Fantasy Violence
Partial Nudity

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PlayStation 2
Culdcept

# ANIME'S Bachelor and Bachelorette

## YOU DECIDE WHO GETS THE BOUQUET!

BY TRISHA L. SEBASTIAN

Sailor Moon's Serena is desperate to m Tuxedo Mask, *Evangelieon's* Kaji ha eyes (and every other body part) Misato, and Rick Hunter spends most of Ro fawning for Lynn Minmei (while Lisa pines over Romance is in the air, but who are *you* salivating

On these pages, we've listed the hottest guys and in anime. Starting on November 18th and running th December, you can go to www.anime-insider.co vote for your favorite babes of both genders. It's a elimination tournament for your affections, and the field will be narrowed down week after week until there is only one gal and one guy standing! The winner from each bracket will be crowned the Anime Bachelor and Bachelorette, though if you're up for the marriage, some of these hotties are so young you may have to head to Kentucky!

With this chart you can compete with your friends to see who can accurately guess who'll win and who'll lose. Think you can foresee the winners? Get your flowers ready!

**Akio Ohtori, 32, vice-principal**
With his snazzy car and hairstyle, he'll revolutionize your life. *(Revolutionary Girl Utena)*

**Duo Maxwell, 15, Gundam pilot**
He may run and hide, but he'll never tell a lie. *(Gundam Wing)*

**Vash the Stampede, 21, pacifist gunfighter**
Goofy, yet fun! Loves cats and doughnuts. *(Trigun)*

**Tamahome, 17, seishi**
Hard-working, women cross universes to be with him. *(Fushigi Yugi)*

**Himura Kenshin, 28, wandering samurai**
Round puppy-dog eyes hide a hardened heart. *(Rurouni Kenshin)*

**Roy Fokker, 26, fighter pilot**
Brash and cocky, but with a deep heart. *(Robotech)*

**Ranma Saotome, 16, martial artist**
A man's man if you keep him away from cold water. *(Ranma 1/2)*

**Kurama, 15, demon**
Redefines the word "foxy." Devotion to mother is a plus. *(Yu Yu Hakusho)*

IT FEELS LIKE SUMPTHIN'S HEATIN' UP.

**Tuxedo Mask, 18, defender of justice**
[illegible] always bring you roses [illegible]. *(Sailor Moon)*

**Aya Fujimaya, 20, florist/assassin**
This red-haired hottie is silent and shy. *(Knight Hunters)*

**Spike Spiegel, 27, bounty hunter**
Handy with a gun and looks snazzy in a suit. *(Cowboy Bebop)*

**Yuki Souma, 16, high school student**
Cute and huggable... even when he turns into a rat. *(Fruits Basket)*

**Ryoji Kaji, 28, spy**
Sneaks out secrets while he steals your heart. *(Neon Genesis Evangelion)*

**Eikichi Onizuka, 22, high school teacher**
Teaching's not the only thing he's the greatest at. *(GTO)*

CAN I LEAVE WIT' YOU?

**Trunks Briefs, 18, martial artist**
Brooding loner, he'll fight for your devotion. *(Dragon Ball Z)*

**Inu-Yasha, 68, half-demon**
The right girl could teach this half-dog some new tricks. *(Inu-Yasha)*

winning bachelor!

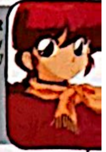
bachelorette!

**Faye Valentine, 21, bounty hunter**
Inside this sexy body lies the heart of a child. *(Cowboy Bebop)*

**Utena Tenjo, 14, high school student**
Intensely devoted, with the manners of a prince. *(Revolutionary Girl Utena)*

**Ranma Saotome, 16, martial artist**
A spunky cutie bux, keep her away from hot water. *(Ranma 1/2)*

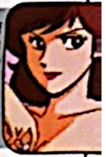
**Chi, 0, personal computer**
Programmed for love and affection. *(Chobits)*



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M THINKIN' 'BOUT...

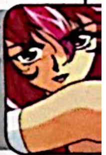
**Fujiko Mine, 25, international thief**
She'll steal your heart—and your wallet! *(Lupin the 3rd)*

**Sailor Moon, 14, defender of justice**
In the name of the moon, she'll date you! *(Sailor Moon)*



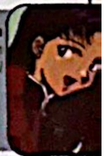
**Chocolate Misu, 17, sorcerer hunter**
Her love will whip you into shape. *(Sorceror Hunters)*

**Ryoko, 2017, space pirate**
Mischievous and playful, but hides a loving heart. *(Tenchi Muyo)*



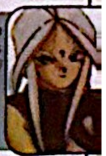
**Misato Katsuragi, 29, NERV captain**
Capable and caring, but a disaster in the kitchen. *(Neon Genesis Evangelion)*

**Naga the Serpent, 18, sorceress**
Loves to laugh, with huge... spellbooks. *(Slayers)*



**Urd, ∞, goddess of love**
Venus has nothing on this goddess! *(Ah! My Goddess)*

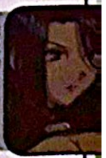
**Bulma Briefs, 18, adventurer/inventor**
Smarts and beauty in one perfect package. *(Dragon Ball Z)*



...REALLY LEAVIN' WIT' YOU!

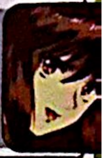
**Miss Deep, 25, secret agent**
Her love will never fade, but her body might. *(Read or Die)*

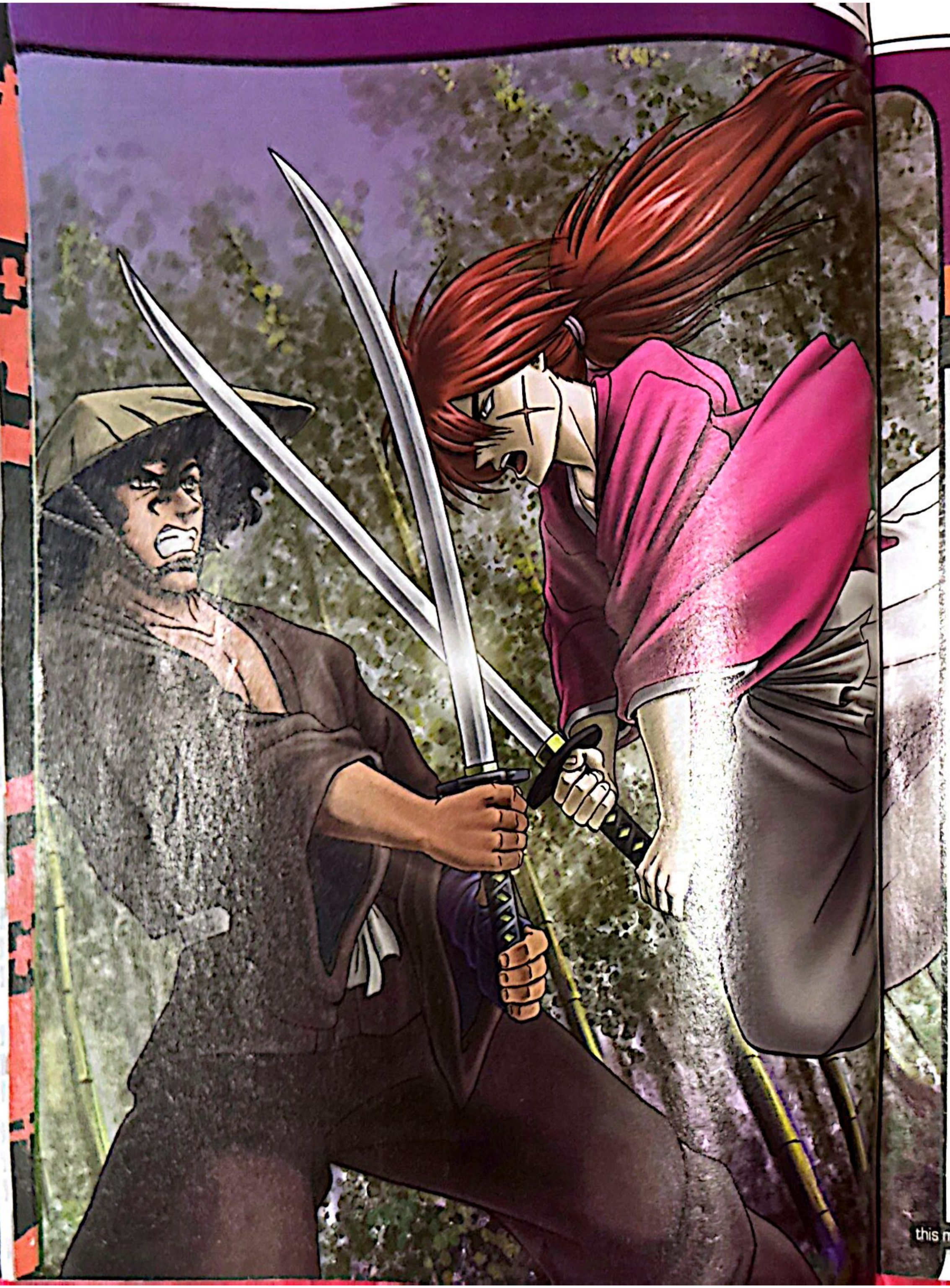
**Naru Narusegawa, 21, college student**
Sweet and loving... until you do something perverted *(Love Hina)*



**Motoko Kusanagi, 38, Section Six commander**
A shrewd mind in a body that won't quit—with regular maintenance. *(Ghost in the Shell)*

**Lum, 18, alien**
Her love will electrify you! *(Urusei Yatsura)*





BY TOM ROOT

# LAST MAN STANDING

## A BATTLE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SEE

## HIMURA KENSHIN VS. JUBEI KIBAGAMI

KENSHIN

JUBEI

| KENSHIN | | JUBEI |
|---|---|---|
| 28 | AGE | 25 |
| Samurai | TRAINING | Ninja |
| Sakabatou | WEAPON OF CHOICE | Katana |
| Kaoru | LOVE INTREST | Kagero |
| Cross-shaped scar on cheek | DISTINGUISHING FEATURE | Hello Kitty tattoo on butt |

**URA KENSHIN:** A ronin, or masterless samurai, shin was once the deadliest force amid all the dshed of Japan's Tokugawa period. However, he's given up his role as "Battousai the Manslayer" and en a path of peace. In fact, the blade of his sword d the "sakabatou" is reversed, so he can defeat opponents with the non-fatal, blunt edge.

**EI KIBAGAMI:** Jubei is a warrior without a master, tined to roam. As a hero for hire, he is without ; his devastating sword-strokes are so powerful emit a concussive blast that splits apart his foes, n beyond the reach of the physical sword. Much ut his past is a mystery, but one thing's for sure: has no qualms about spilling blood.

### HE BATTLE BEGINS

nshin feels the presence of his opponent a scant cond before he appears. From out of the trees, the ninja Jubei Kibagami leaps soundlessly down to the path, blocking Kenshin's way. "Battousai the Manslayer," Jubei says, "your time on this Earth is at an end."

"Oro?" Kenshin says, feigning shock. "You must be confused with someone else, that you do." Jubei says nothing. The less said about a paid assignment, the better.

Jubei lunges, slashing mightily with his sword. A dozen halved trees fall to the ground, but Kenshin has disappeared in the blink of an eye. Jubei looks about wildly, spotting Kenshin in the air above him only a fraction of a second before the samurai strikes. Jubei raises his sword in time, and the pair lock blades.

Immediately, Jubei notices something peculiar in his foe's fighting style: he's using the dull edge of his sword. "This is the Manslayer?" Jubei muses. "It appears he's lost his taste for blood."

Jubei whirls about, hoping to press an advantage. Suddenly he's caught in a shower of rocks exploding from the ground, as Kenshin strikes it with his *doryu-usen* attack. Jubei turns the tables, charging Kenshin through the airborne stones, slashing them out of his path before reaching Kenshin with another barrage of strikes. Kenshin is forced to briefly retreat—this fight needs to end, he thinks.

"Hiten-Mitsurugi *style…Ryusousen!*" Kenshin cries, leaping out of the air straight down toward his opponent, unleashing a blizzard of strikes. Jubei blocks several of the blows, but the torrent is too overwhelming. Battered and bludgeoned by Kenshin's sakabatou until he can no longer even hold his own sword, Jubei falls.

### THE WINNAH:

Kenshin sheathes his blade, eyeing the fallen ninja. Jubei painfully pulls himself up into a sitting position to address his opponent. "This will cost me a lot of gold," Jubei chuckles ruefully. Kenshin nods wisely. "It almost cost you more, that it did," Kenshin smiles, and continues on his way. ●

*Are there any cataclysmic anime match-ups you'd like to see on these pages? Let us know at AnimeInsider@aol.com now!*

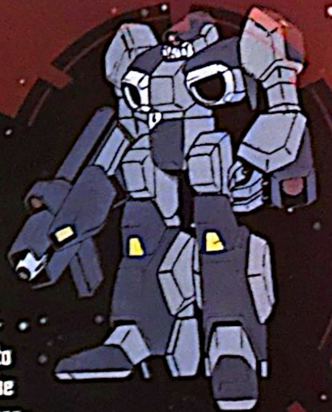
this month's battle drawn by DENISE JONES

Toynami and Anime Insider Present:

# ROBOTECH

## Stealth Shadow Fighter

As Seen in "Genesis Climber Mospeada"!



## Shadow Wars!

In the *Robotech* universe, the Veritech Alpha Fighter is Earth's premier third-generation transformable fighter, serving the Expeditionary Force through its mission in deep space and the reclamation mission to Earth.

Late in the Third Robotech War, the "S" variant was introduced, combining radar stealth and a sophisticated Protoculture cloaking device to minimize detection by Invid attackers. This variant, known as the "Shadow Fighter," was issued a larger gun pod than prior Alphas, capable of disrupting Invid force fields! Additionally, the Shadow Fighter boasted several design changes, including having its hands replaced by three-fingered claws.

This translucent "Stealth" version of the Shadow Fighter is the next poseable Veritech figure in Toynami's popular Robotech line of toys, but it's only available for a limited time, so pick it up before it drops off your radar!

**ONLY AVAILABLE FROM WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT!**

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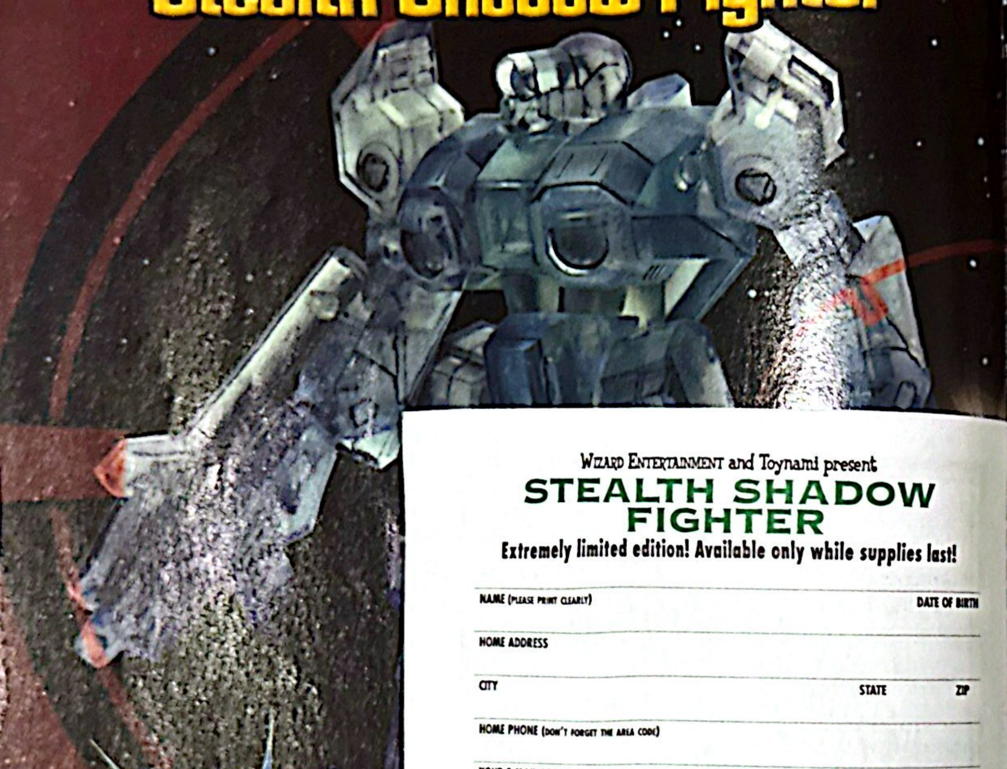
WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT

ULTIMATE HULK BUST

Toynami and Anime Insider Present:

# ROBOTECH

## Stealth Shadow Fighter



As Seen in "Genesis Climber Mospeada"

Wizard Entertainment and Toynami present

## STEALTH SHADOW FIGHTER

**Extremely limited edition! Available only while supplies last!**

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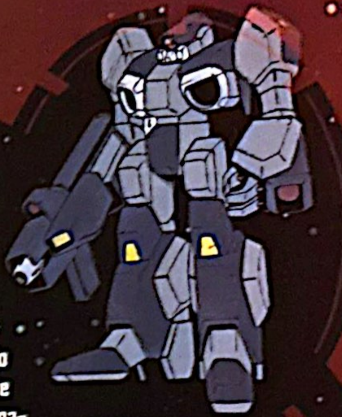
## Shadow Wars!



In the *Robotech* universe, the Veritech Alpha Fighter is Earth's premier third-generation transformable fighter, serving the Expeditionary Force through its mission in deep space and the reclamation mission to Earth.

Late in the Third Robotech War, the "S" variant was introduced, combining radar stealth and a sophisticated Protoculture cloaking device to minimize detection by Invid attackers. This variant, known as the "Shadow Fighter," was issued a larger gun pod than prior Alphas, capable of disrupting Invid force fields! Additionally, the Shadow Fighter boasted several design changes, including having its hands replaced by three-fingered claws.

This translucent "Stealth" version of the Shadow Fighter is the next poseable Veritech figure in Toynami's popular Robotech line of toys, but it's only available for a limited time, so pick it up before it drops off your radar!

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**STEALTH SHADOW FIGHTER**

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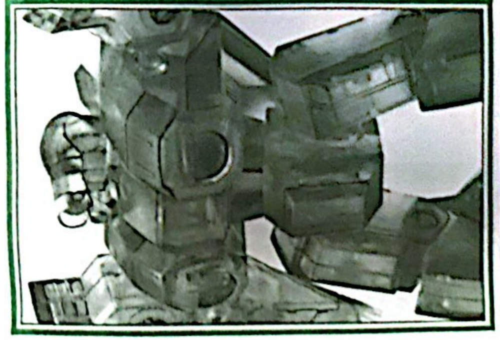

ER

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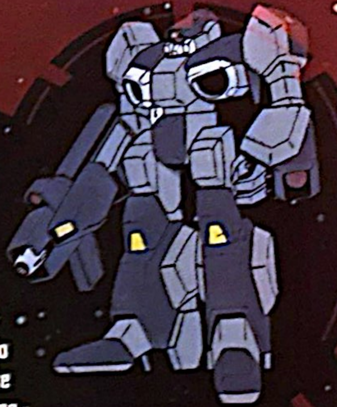

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# LOVE CONNECTION

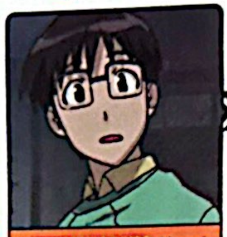
## two's a couple and three's a crowd, but what do you call a 17-some?

BY MIGUEL A.E. BETITA

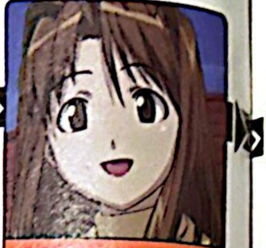
**Love Hina may be over, and it's only taken 24 TV episodes, two movies, a three-part OVA series and 14 manga collections of the hit romantic comedy for Keitaro Urashima and Naru Narusegawa's relationship to even begin!**

**What was their hold-up? Maybe it was Keitaro's being in charge of an all-girls dormitory…or his accidental habit of barging in on his tenants undressing…or the constant friends and foes alike who rocked their love boat…or just the flying turtle.**

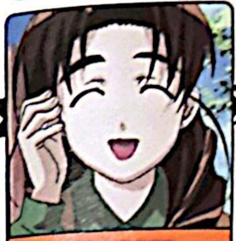
**Hey—crazy drama like this can't be made up, unless it's by creator Ken Akamatsu. Teenage relationships aren't a pretty sight anyways, and keeping track of who loves and/or hates whom in *Love Hina* can induce headaches and dizzy spells. So here's a guide to sort it all out.**



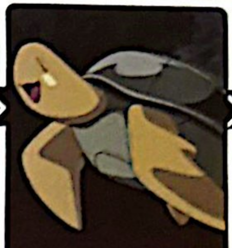
**KEITARO URASHIMA**, 20, a well-meaning but clumsy loser, became the manager of his grandmother's all-girls Hinata dormitory. He's failed the college entrance exams three times, because as a child he promised to enter Tokyo University with a girl he *thinks* may be…



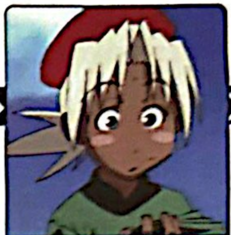
**NARU NARUSEGAWA**, 17, the talented and beautiful Hinata dorm resident. She's also trying for Tokyo University because of her [illegible] crush (who isn't Keitaro) [illegible] while half-pursuing Keitaro, [illegible] a rival in…



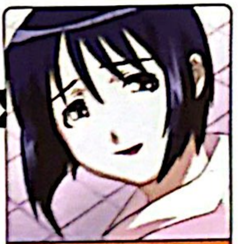
**MUTSUMI OTOHIME**. She's 21, and like Keitaro has failed her entrance exam three times now. Even though they and Naru study together, Naru is jealous of how well Mutsumi and Keitaro get along. Mutsumi's always followed by…



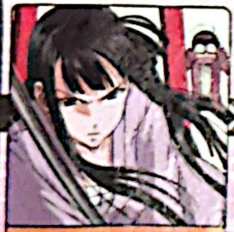
**TAMA-CHAN**, a hot springs turtle that can fly (don't ask). Given to Naru by Mutsumi after their trip to Kyoto, it has to avoid being on the menu for…



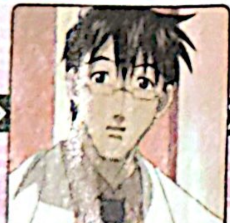
**KAOLLA SU**, 14, a mechanical genius from a foreign land. A Hinata resident, her inventions cause constant destruction to the dorm and Keitaro, whom she latches onto…platonically. Crazy as heck, she stole a first kiss from her pal…



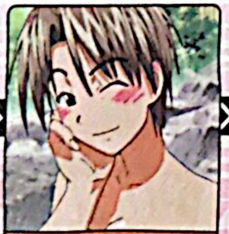
**SHINOBU MAEHARA**, 13, who handles most of the cooking in the Hinata house. Innocent and naive, she's got a crush on Keitaro, too—which makes Keitaro look like a pervert. Of all her dorm-mates, she most respects…



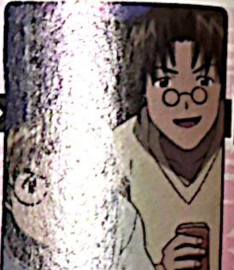
**MOTOKO AOYAMA**, 16, who has impeccable swordsmanship. She hates Keitaro at first, but when he helps her gain her "succession" technique, she gets her own mild crush on him. Her martial arts ability is matched only by the skills of…



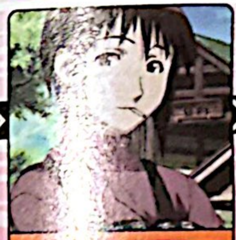
**SETA NORIYASU**, Naru's former platonic childhood crush and professor at Tokyo University. He shows up whenever Keitaro and Naru begin getting close, much to Keitaro's chagrin, but he's secretly admired by…



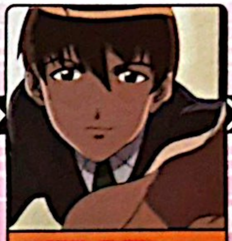
**MITSUNE KONNO**, 20. Nicknamed Kitsune—which means "mischievous fox"—she's quite the opportunist, constantly meddling in Naru and Keitaro's lives so *she* can be with Seta. In her schemes she uses…



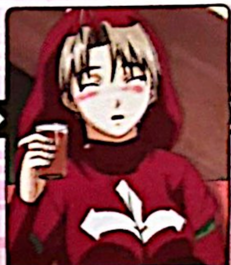
**SHIRAI [illegible] HAITANI**, Keitaro's friends [illegible] losers. Shirai (left) adores [illegible], whereas Haitani favors [illegible] older woman…



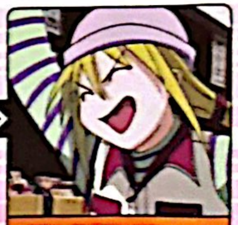
**HARUKA URASHIMA**, 27, Keitaro's [illegible] no-nonsense aunt and the head [illegible] Hinata tavern. Always seen [illegible] unlit cigarette in her mouth, [illegible] she had a past relationship with Seta. To help her run [illegible], she hires…



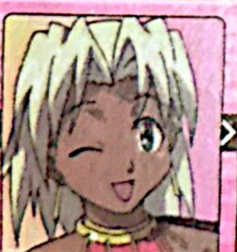
**KENTARO SAKATA**. Rich and popular, he's also stalked Naru since freshman year! He challenges Keitaro for Naru, but when she discovers Sakata sees her as a conquest, she loses all interest in him. Down but not out, he tries for…



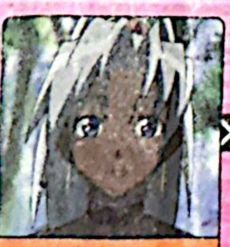
**MITSUNE**, who revels in the attention—but that's it, since she longs for Seta. So in an effort to earn some brownie points with him, she offers to take care of…



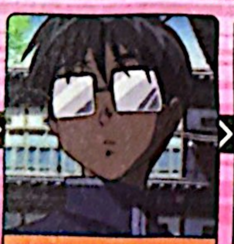
**SARA MCDOUGAL**, Seta's adopted daughter. She hates everybody, but especially anyone who tries to get close to Seta, which is mostly Naru—but she finds time to hate Keitaro too. However, she does enjoy hanging with immature goofball…



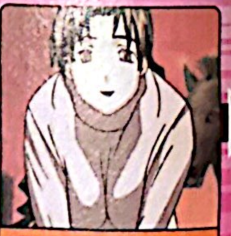
**KAOLLA**, who never falls in love with Keitaro…except when she looks directly at a red moon, morphs into an older version of herself, and chases Keitaro down for romance! Only her older sister…



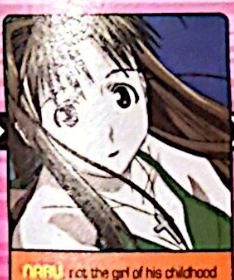
**AMALLA SU** can straighten things out. The exotic tanned beauty and her pet albino crocodile put things—and Kaolla—back in order. See, the problem is that both Kaolla *and* Amalla have a crush on…



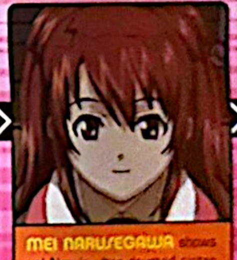
**LAMBA LU**, Crown Prince of Kaolla's home country. Kaolla's older cousin, Lamba looks identical to Keitaro, but that's it—he's suave, cultured and tanned. He once traded identities with Keitaro, fooling everyone except…



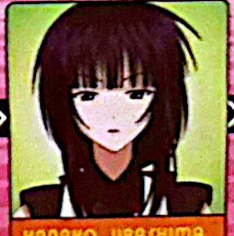
**MUTSUMI**, who might really be the girl Keitaro promised to enter Tokyo U. for! After trying to decide whether to go with the girl he's been dreaming of all his life or Naru, Keitaro follows his heart and settles on…



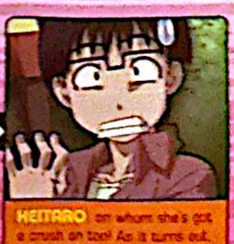
**NARU**, not the girl of his childhood obsession, but the girl he's fallen for as an adult. Keitaro finally confesses his love, and Naru follows suit. Yay! But their troubles aren't over, because that's when…



**MEI NARUSEGAWA** shows up! Naru's ultra-devoted sister tries to get her big sis home, a relationship with Keitaro be darned. She eventually realizes Keitaro is a good guy, and Naru-worthy, but that's when…



**HANAKO URASHIMA**, Keitaro's non-blood-related sister, arrives! Kanako moves into the Hinata dorm, and impersonates and harasses everyone to unintended goofy effect. She's got her eye solely on…



**KEITARO**, on whom she's got a crush on too! As it turns out, Mutsumi wasn't the girl of his childhood promise; he never does find her. But he does get Naru and hangs with dozens of other lovely ladies. It may not have been the easiest life, but hey—these are definitely the problems to have!

# Map Quest

## Your Guide to Inu-Yasha and Kagome's Journey Through Feudal Japan. Try Not to Get Lost!

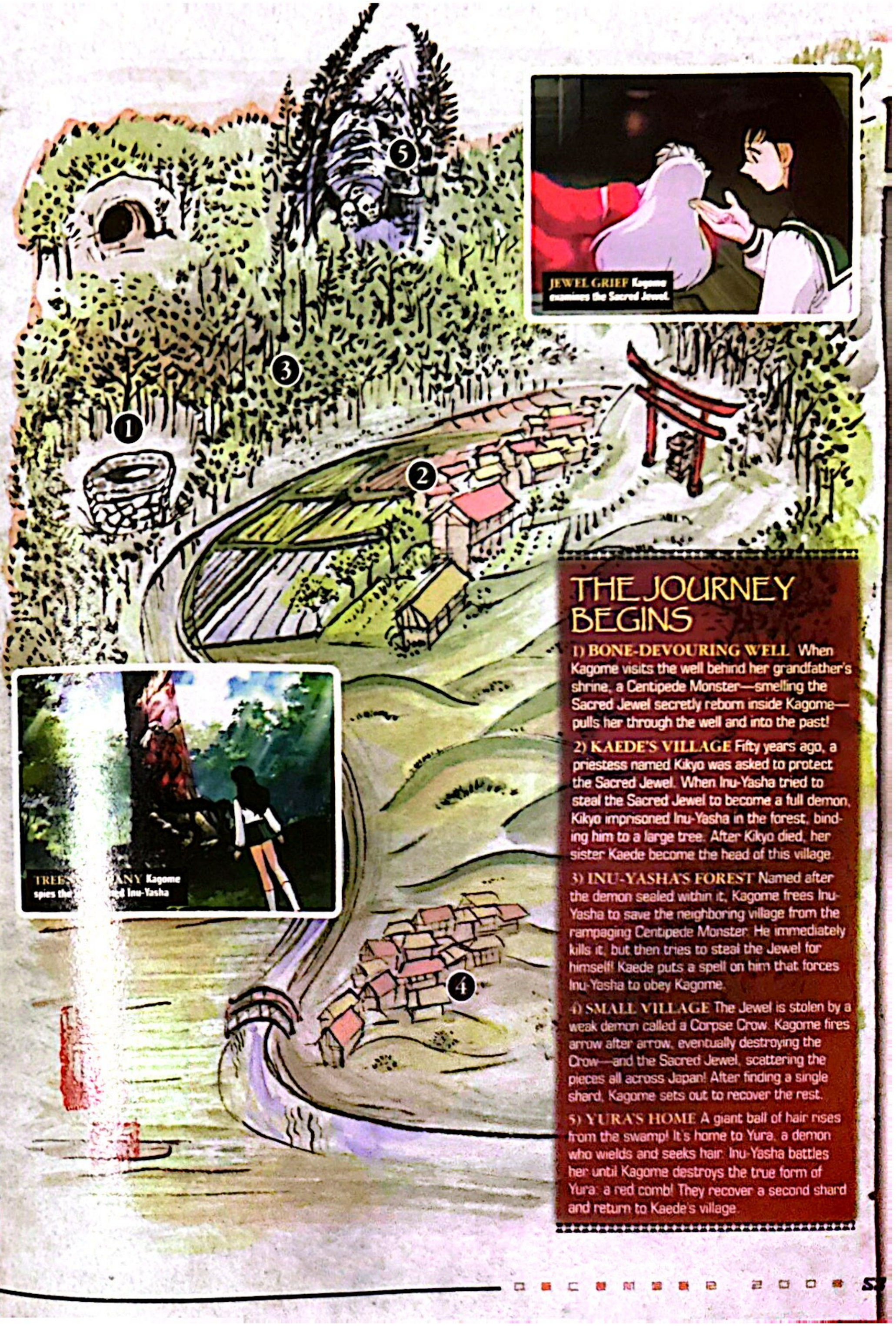
By Rebecca Bundy • Maps by Andy Lee

Peer pressure, zits and puberty. These are the things that made our lives hell in high school. But would we have traded them for demons, monsters and mayhem? Maybe.

Poor Kagome Higurashi had no choice, though. Instead of spending time painting her nails and thinking about boys, the [illegible]-year-old girl fell through a well, time-traveled to feudal Japan, discovered [illegible] was the reincarnation of [illegible] priestess, was attacked by demons and broke the legendary Sacred Jewel.

Now demons across Japan are running wild, snatching up the Jewel's shards and getting [illegible] powerful in the process. Kagome can't let this happen, so along with half-dog demon Inu-Yasha (who wants the jewel to turn himself into a full demon) and a few mis-matched friends, she must recover all the shards no matter the cost.

Now, *Anime Insider*, in cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Antiquities, has uncovered ancient maps of Japan showing exactly where Kagome and Inu-Yasha travelled! Follow them as they venture into monster-filled caves, dark forests, haunted castles, and demon-infested everywhere to save Japan...and themselves.



**JEWEL GRIEF** Kagome examines the Sacred Jewel.

**TREE[illegible]ANY** Kagome spies the [illegible] Inu-Yasha

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS

**1) BONE-DEVOURING WELL** When Kagome visits the well behind her grandfather's shrine, a Centipede Monster—smelling the Sacred Jewel secretly reborn inside Kagome—pulls her through the well and into the past!

**2) KAEDE'S VILLAGE** Fifty years ago, a priestess named Kikyo was asked to protect the Sacred Jewel. When Inu-Yasha tried to steal the Sacred Jewel to become a full demon, Kikyo imprisoned Inu-Yasha in the forest, binding him to a large tree. After Kikyo died, her sister Kaede become the head of this village.

**3) INU-YASHA'S FOREST** Named after the demon sealed within it, Kagome frees Inu-Yasha to save the neighboring village from the rampaging Centipede Monster. He immediately kills it, but then tries to steal the Jewel for himself! Kaede puts a spell on him that forces Inu-Yasha to obey Kagome.

**4) SMALL VILLAGE** The Jewel is stolen by a weak demon called a Corpse Crow. Kagome fires arrow after arrow, eventually destroying the Crow—and the Sacred Jewel, scattering the pieces all across Japan! After finding a single shard, Kagome sets out to recover the rest.

**5) YURA'S HOME** A giant ball of hair rises from the swamp! It's home to Yura, a demon who wields and seeks hair. Inu-Yasha battles her until Kagome destroys the true form of Yura: a red comb! They recover a second shard and return to Kaede's village.

10
9
6
7
The Well

[illegible]OX RUNT Little Shippo (right) just wants some attention.

SIBLING RIVALRY Sesshomaru and Inu-Yasha fight for the Tetsusaiga.

## BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER

**6) DISMAL SWAMP** To discover the location of their father's tomb, Inu-Yasha's full-demon brother Sesshoumaru disguises an Un-Mother demon as Inu-Yasha's human mother. While the Un-Mother pulls Inu-Yasha into her own body, Kagome rescues him with help from the cowardly Myoga the flea.

**7) FATHER'S TOMB** Sesshoumaru seeks the sword Tetsusaiga that was hidden in their father's tomb—which is hidden in Inu-Yasha's eye! Sesshomaru enters the dimensional tomb, followed by Inu-Yasha and Kagome. The brothers fight within [illegible]ther's gargantuan [illegible] but Inu-Yasha finds [illegible]saiga and severs [illegible]aru's arm!

**[illegible]SHI CASTLE** [illegible] and Kagome help [illegible]an after learning [illegible]arby lord is [illegible] by a toad demon [illegible]ce of the Sacred [illegible]ome blasts the [illegible] small flame and [illegible]rspray, saving [illegible]d earning them

**[illegible]DONED [illegible]FIELD** In a field [illegible] the skeletons of [illegible] warriors, a young fox demon called Shippo steals the shards to destroy his father's killers, Maten and Hiten, the Thunder Brothers. Maten kidnaps Kagome when she tries to get the shards back from Shippo.

**10) THE THUNDER BROTHER'S PLACE** Inu-Yasha confronts the brothers at their home to rescue Kagome. He gets badly injured when he kills Maten, but even with five shards, Hiten is no match for Inu-Yasha! Afterwards, Kagome returns to the present to finally study.

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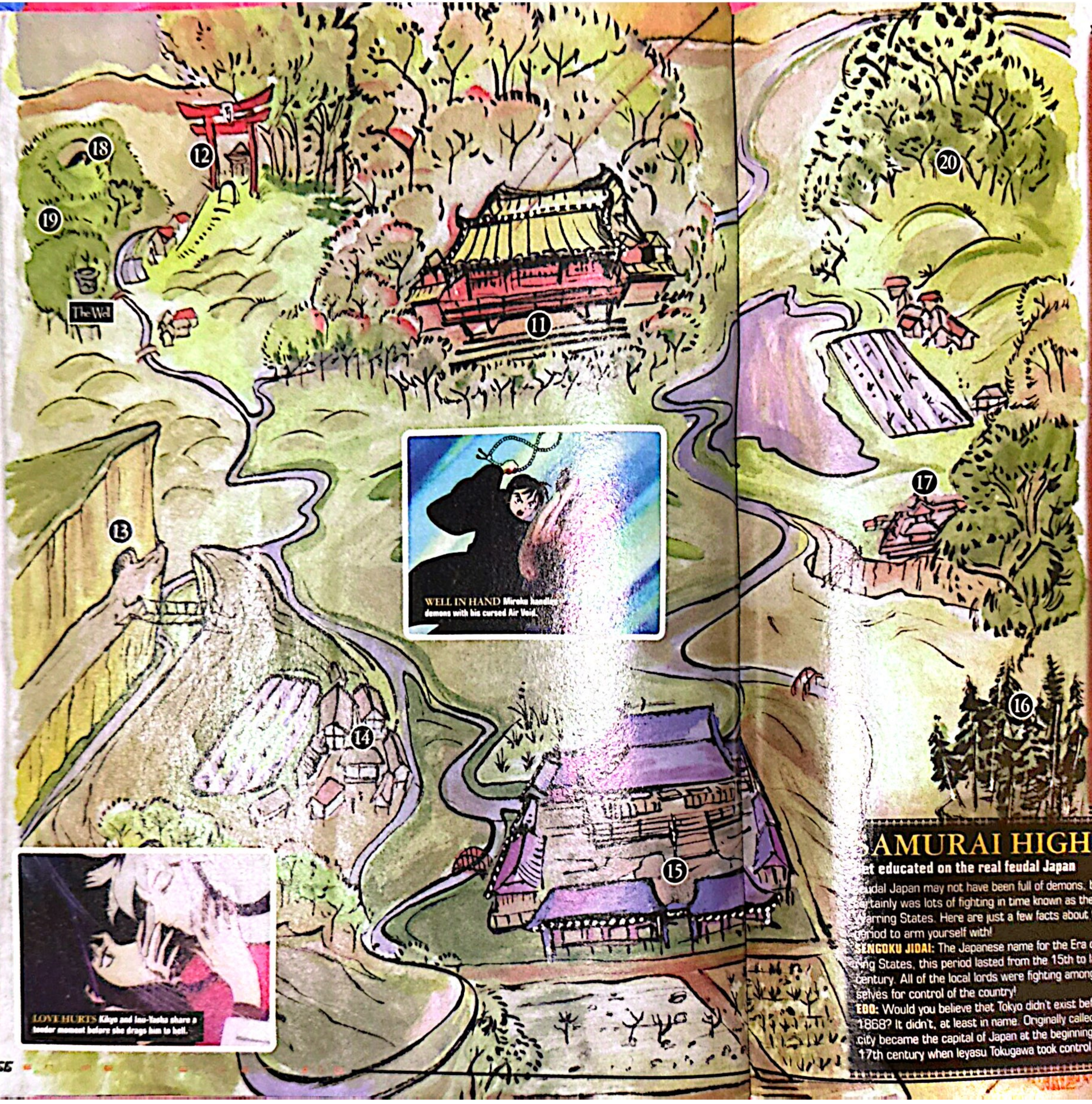


**WELL IN HAND** Miroku handles demons with his cursed Air Void.

**LOVE HURTS** Kikyo and Inu-Yasha share a tender moment before she drags him to hell.

# KIKYO'S RETURN

**11) NEW MOON TEMPLE** After a week at home, Kagome joins Inu-Yasha and Shippo to defend a temple from a swarm of demon spiders. On the night of the new moon, however, Inu-Yasha turns into a full human! The Boss Spider gobbles up all of the shards, but gets toasted when the sun rises and Inu-Yasha regains his demon half.

**12) KIKYO'S SHRINE** Though she died 50 years ago, the villagers still honor Kikyo for protecting their village. Kijo Urasue, a demon who can reanimate the dead with lost souls, steals Kikyo's bones to bring Kikyo back to life so he can get the Jewel.

**13) KIJO'S CAVE** Learning that Kagome has Kikyo's soul, Kijo kidnaps her. Kikyo returns to life and wants revenge against Inu-Yasha, who she thinks betrayed her! While she tries to kill him, Kagome reclaims most of her stolen soul before Kikyo runs away and falls off a cliff, refusing Inu-Yasha's offer of help to rescue her.

**14) SOUTH VILLAGE** The wandering monk Miroku steals the accumulated shards from Kagome. Inu-Yasha fights him, but Miroku unleashes a hole in his hand called an Air Void that pulls things into oblivion. Kagome throws herself in its path to save Inu-Yasha. Miroku says he's hunting a monster called Naraku, who cursed his family.

**15) STAINED PALACE** Using a shard that brings his paintings to life, a weasel-like painter unleashes an army of demons upon a warring lord to steal his land and daughter. With Miroku, the group destroys the ink case and recovers the shard.

**16) DARK FOREST** The mysterious Naraku makes his first appearance, offering Sesshoumaru a human arm so he can wield the Tetsusaiga himself.

**17) CANYON BATTLEGROUND** Sesshoumaru steals the Tetsusaiga from Inu-Yasha and unleashes its true power: to kill a hundred demons with one swing! Inu-Yasha is injured badly but recovers the Tetsusaiga. They return to the well and Inu-Yasha locks Kagome in the present to keep her safe.

**18) ONIGUMO'S CAVE** Kaede tells Inu-Yasha of a thief named Onigumo whom Kikyo took care of shortly before she died. The thief wanted nothing more than to hurt Kikyo, corrupting the Sacred Jewel before he disappeared in a mysterious fire.

**19) INU-YASHA'S FOREST** Kagome's concern over Inu-Yasha's wounds lets her return to the past. Inu-Yasha confronts Naraku, who admits he was born from Onigumo's evil and was responsible for turning Kikyo and Inu-Yasha against each other before he escapes.

**20) KIKYO'S FOREST** Inu-Yasha leaves after learning that Kikyo lives! Kagome, Miroku, and Shippo find a forest only Kagome can enter. Within, she finds the evil reincarnation of Kikyo. Inu-Yasha arrives, and Kikyo uses his love for her to try to drag him to hell. Kagome rescues Inu-Yasha, Kikyo escapes, and Kagome returns to the present for a rest.

# SAMURAI HIGH

### Get educated on the real feudal Japan

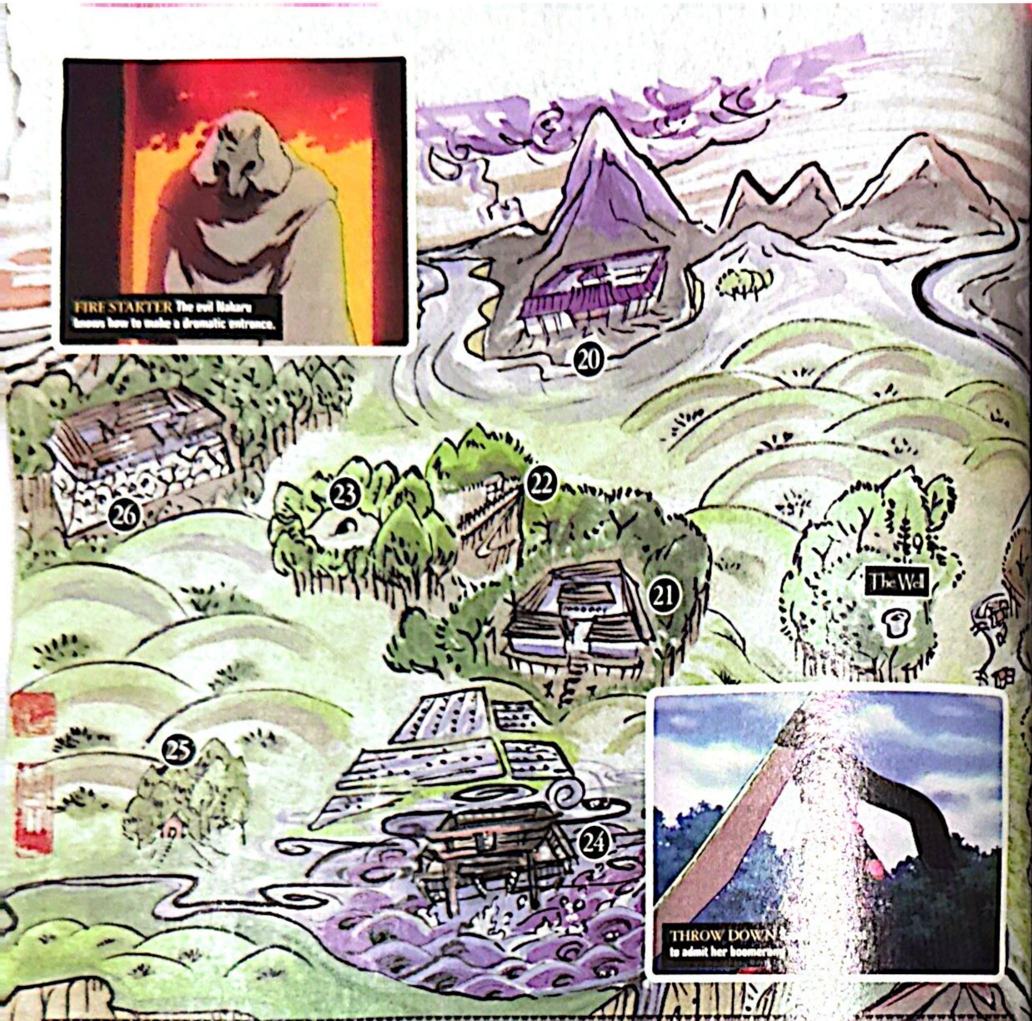
Feudal Japan may not have been full of demons, but there certainly was lots of fighting in time known as the Era of Warring States. Here are just a few facts about the time period to arm yourself with!

**SENGOKU JIDAI:** The Japanese name for the Era of Warring States, this period lasted from the 15th to late 16th century. All of the local lords were fighting among themselves for control of the country!

**EDO:** Would you believe that Tokyo didn't exist before 1868? It didn't, at least in name. Originally called Edo, this city became the capital of Japan at the beginning of the 17th century when Ieyasu Tokugawa took control of the government and ended the fighting.

**ODA NOBUNAGA:** Kagome mistakes Nobunaga at Musashi Castle for Oda Nobunaga, a powerful lord who took control of Kyoto in 1568 (Kagome's a little early timewise). He tried to unite the country but was assassinated before his dreams became a reality.

**THE CLASS SYSTEM:** Japan was divided into four classes: nobility, samurai, peasants, and artisans/merchants. The peasants (who weren't allowed to have swords) made up the majority and were the poorest, while the samurai—the soldier class—were in great demand because of all the fighting during the Sengoku Jidai. ■ RB



**FIRE STARTER** The evil Naraku knows how to make a dramatic entrance.

**THROW DOWN** [illegible] to admit her boomerang [illegible]

## THE SECRET OF THE SACRED JEWEL

**21) ISSO CASTLE** After defeating demons at a local castle, executioner Sango watches in horror as her little brother Kohaku goes crazy and starts killing his partners. The castle's lord kills him and wounds Sango. Later, Sango overhears a disguised Naraku say that a demon called Inu-Yasha killed everyone at her home village, and swears revenge. Naraku—and the whole castle—disappear.

**22) EXECUTIONER'S VILLAGE** Kagome and company travel unknowingly to Sango's village after learning the Sacred Jewel was born there! They arrive to find the village destroyed and everyone killed. Leaving they find Sango, who tries to kill Inu-Yasha before passing out from her earlier wounds.

**23) MIDORIKO'S CAVE** After learning the truth, Sango tells them the story of the Sacred Jewel. Four hundred years ago, a powerful shrine priestess named Miko absorbed a legion of demons and trapped them within her soul to purify them. The Sacred Jewel is the physical manifestation of her soul.

**24) WATER GOD'S CASTLE** Mis[illegible]is castle for Naraku's, the group investigate and learn a Wat[illegible] has been demanding sacrifices of the local children! They dis[illegible] he's an imposter and destroy him, returning power to the real Water God.

**25) MIROKU'S HOME** Miroku returns home to repair his Air Void after it was cut open wider in a fight. Mushin, the drunken priest who cared for him after his father died, fixes the Air Void but warns that Miroku doesn't have much longer to live.

**26) ISSO CASTLE 2** Naraku tells Sango her brother Kohaku has been resurrected—and he'll trade Kohaku for Inu-Yasha's sword. Sango steals the blade and fights Naraku until everyone else arrives. Kagome hits Naraku with a purifying arrow, nearly killing him, but he and the castle disappear again. The entire group sets off to destroy Naraku once and for all! But *that* is another adventure...

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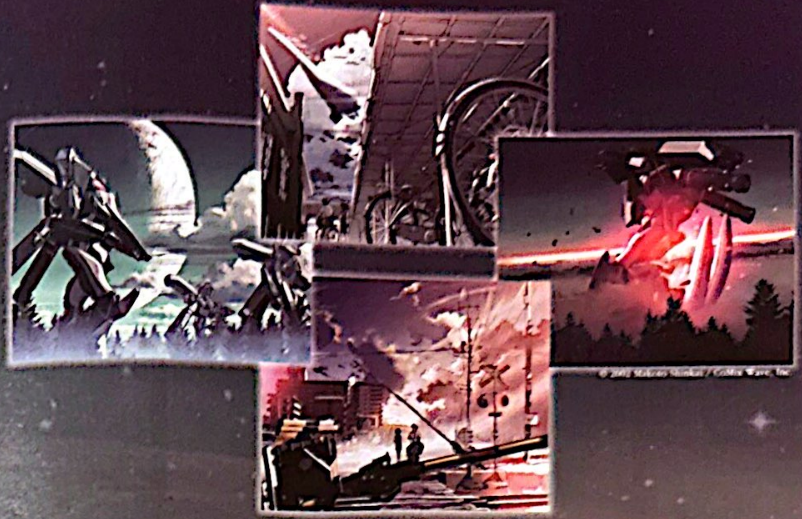
*Arizona-based freelance writer Rebecca Bundy doesn't realize she has a Sacred Snickers Bar reborn inside her.*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# The QT on 'GT'

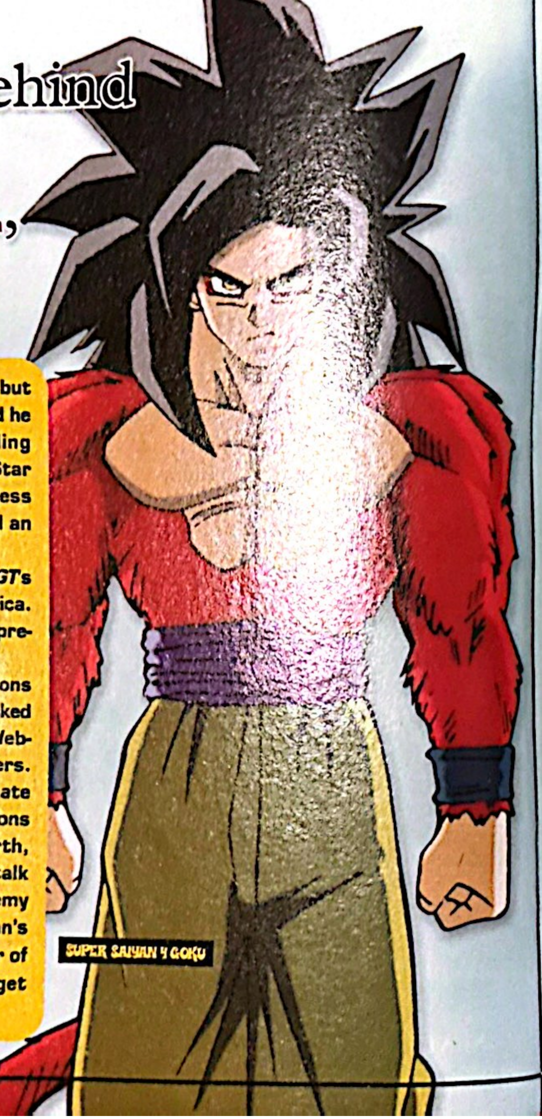
## A Grand Tour Behind the Mysteries of 'Dragon Ball GT'

**BY ALYSSON WYATT**

**D*ragon Ball GT* may be the sequel to *DBZ*, but it sure is...different. Goku's a kid again, and he and his granddaughter Pan are traveling through the galaxy to find a new set of Black Star Dragon Balls that will destroy the Earth unless they're returned in a year. At least there's still an evil alien bent on enslaving the universe.**

**Airing from in Japan from 1996 to 1997, *DBGT*s 64 episodes have taken a while to get to America. Now the wait is over, and the show will finally premiere on Cartoon Network this November.**

**But *DB* fans know *GT* raises a lot more questions than answers. And we know, because when we asked you to give us your *DBGT* questions on our Website, anime-insider.com, you flooded our servers. Lucky for you, we busybodies at *Anime Insider* hate not knowing the answer. So we took your questions down to *DBGT* licensor FUNimation in Fort Worth, Texas, and banged on the door until they let us talk to director Chris Bevins, script supervisor Jeremy Carlisle, script writer (and voice of Goku and Pan's spaceship-mate Trunks), Eric Vale and voice actor of Baby and Master Roshi Mike McFarland and get some answers. And we got' em, too.**



**SUPER SAIYAN 4 GOKU**

### Why did FUNimation skip the first 16 episodes of *DBGT*?

**—Terry, Falmouth, Mass.**

The episodes were skipped for a purpose. "We wanted to start everybody off with a taste of the fun action of *GT*, which doesn't really get started until the supervillian Baby is introduced," explains Bevins.

See, the first 16 episodes show Goku (turned into a kid again by the Black Star Dragon Balls), his granddaughter Pan and the teenage Trunks traveling through the galaxy to recover the Black Star Balls. Goku and the crew land on an assortment of rather goofy planets, much in the style of the less-action-oriented, more wacky adventure-filled *Dragon Ball*. They don't contribute to the plot, and they disenchanted a lot of Japanese fans who wanted *GT* to be more like *DBZ*. [see sidebar].

FUNimation didn't want to have the same problem. "We wanted to make sure everybody got hooked on the big full-blown action of *GT* that everyone had kind of become accustomed to on *Dragon Ball Z*, and then go back and fill in the gaps afterwards," says Bevins. But *GT* fans need not worry—Bevins says the original first 16 episodes are already in production, and should appear on DVD sometime in 2004.

### If the long blonde hair is Super Saiyan 3 and the red body hair is Super Saiyan 4, what is the giant monkey form in between them called?

**—Angelica, Phoenix, Ariz.**

While any Saiyan can turn into a giant monkey—called the "Oozaru" form in the Japanese—when he looks at a full moon (Goku does a few times in *DB* and his son Gohan does it once in *DBZ*), this is a special mode only achieved after the Super Saiyan 3 level. While looking at the full Earth while standing on Baby's newly wished for Planet Plant, Goku transforms into the giant monkey form with a special golden sheen. The proper Japanese name for this form is "Goruden Oozaru," which literally translates to "Golden Giant Monkey." As for the English dubbed version, director Chris Bevins states, "I don't think we ever officially gave the form a name." According to Eric Vale, "As a scriptwriter, I just put 'gorilla.'"

**PAN**

### How old is Goku when *DBGT* starts?

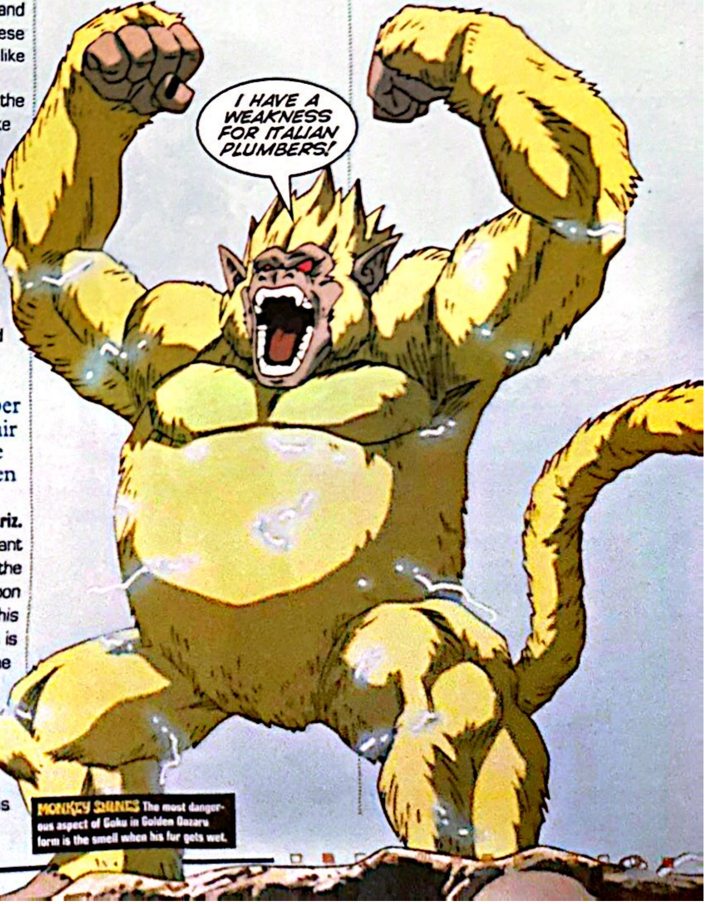
**—Michael, Lexington, Ky.**

Everyone, get out your calculators! According to the *DBZ Daizenshyu* (a Japanese series guide), Goku is 24 when *DBZ* starts. After fighting Raditz, Freeza and dying at Cell's hands, he comes back at age 37. The last four episodes (273-276) of *DBZ* occur 10 years after the Buu saga, making him 47. In those same episodes, Goku's granddaughter Pan is four years old. When *GT* starts, it's been another 10 years, so Goku is technically 57. You can explain his youthful looks by his great physical shape and his many years spent dead.

### Can Pan and Bulla go Super Saiyan?

**—Jennifer, Seattle, Wash.**

The only thing necessary to turn Super Saiyan is Saiyan blood, and since Pan is Goku's granddaughter and Bulla is Vegeta's daughter, they've got it. However, they never do turn Super Saiyan in any episode. Theoretically, any Saiyan can turn Super, male or female. "Anybody of Saiyan blood could potentially go Super Saiyan with enough training," says script supervisor Jeremy Carlisle. "If any of the other lady characters train hard enough, then I don't see why they couldn't."



I HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR ITALIAN PLUMBERS!

**MONKEY SHINES** The most dangerous aspect of Goku in Golden Oozaru form is the smell when his fur gets wet.

### Why or how does Goku get old again when he turns Super Saiyan 4?

**—Matthew, Washington, D. C.**

While Goku may have turned into a little kid, the power of Super Saiyan 4 is so great, it's far too much for a little kid's body to harness. Goku's body is forced to take on its natural adult state to channel the power. "Goku has to be able to expand his mass anyways by going into the Golden Giant Monkey form before he can focus all that power into the form of Super Saiyan 4," adds Bevins.

### What would Super Saiyan 5 Goku look like?

**—Tiffany, Boise, Idaho**

While Goku never strays past SS4 in *DBGT*, the FUNimation crew had a few ideas. "You know when Roshi turns all buff in *Dragon Ball*?" asks McFarland. "He looks like that, with long flowing, glowing half-black, half-blonde hair, and a monkey tail."

"And he rides a shark!" Carlisle adds. Eric Vale's answer? "Gary Coleman."

### At the beginning, Baby is a creation of evil alien scientist Dr. Myuu; but he later says he's an alien called a Tuffle. What's the deal?

**—Steven, Long Beach, Calif.**

Baby is the first serious villain to cross paths with Goku and the gang. Early on, Dr. Myuu refers to Baby as his own scientific creation (episodes 21 and 22), but later Baby himself exposes Dr. Myuu's claim as mere delusion, revealing his true nature at the end of episode 22 as a member of the alien race of Tuffles.

When the Tuffles realized they were losing their war with the Saiyans, they developed a secret biological weapon. This weapon is Baby, a powerful parasitic creature with superb mind control abilities, a deep hatred for all Saiyans, and a mission. "Baby explains that his essence was controlling Dr. Myuu all along, and he actually made Dr. Myuu rebuild him," explains Bevins. Baby uses Dr. Myuu's genius to make himself stronger by integrating his own biological system with Dr. Myuu's mechanical brilliance and recreating himself as a half-parasite, half-android type of creature.

### Why didn't the Black Star Dragon Balls ever show up in *DBZ*?

**—Emily, Reynoldsburg, Ohio**

Because they weren't invented yet. In *DBZ*, the only Dragon Balls used by creator Akira Toriyama were the Orange Star Balls. But Toei Animation, makers of *GT*, decided to create the new Black Star set as a convenient plot device (if a weird one) to get Goku into space, chasing after them. But for the in-story explanation, the first episode says that they were created long ago by the original Namekian who later split into the good guardian of Earth Kami, who made the Orange Star balls, and the evil being who became good Piccolo. As their combined form, the Namekian who created them was much stronger, hence the extra wish power, different colored star, and why they scatter across the galaxy and not just the Earth when used.

### What do the Black Star Dragon Balls taste like?

**—Michael, Clifton, N. J.**

Let's just go to the interview tape.

**BEVINS**: Chicken!

**McFARLAND**: They taste like regular Dragon Balls that were cooked too long.

**VALE**: I ate dirt when I was a kid… they probably taste something like dirt.

**ANIME INSIDER**: You ate dirt?

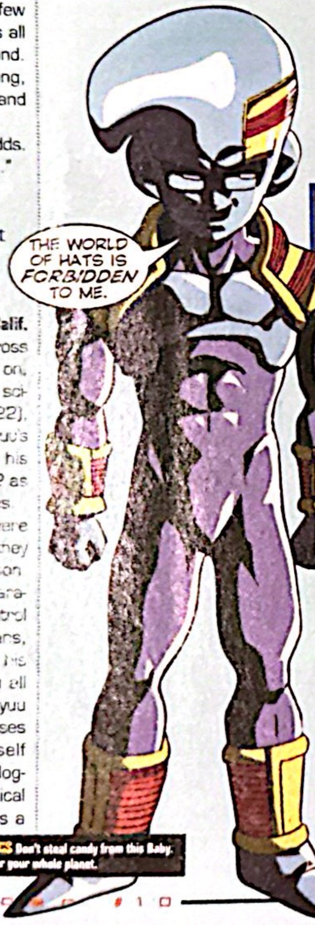
**VALE**: I ate dirt! Anybody who said they didn't eat dirt when they were a kid, they're lying!

**McFARLAND**: I didn't eat dirt…

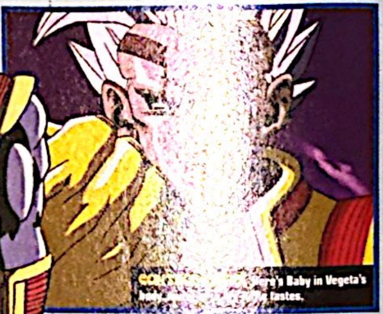
**VALE**: Liar!

**McFARLAND**: I did eat black jelly beans, which don't taste good. Maybe Black Star Dragon Balls taste like baseball-sized black jelly beans.

**BEVINS**: Gross.


THE WORLD OF HATS IS FORBIDDEN TO ME.

**BABY BLUES** Don't steal candy from this Baby. He'll take over your whole planet.



**CO[illegible]** Here's Baby in Vegeta's body [illegible] tastes.

### What's up with Bulma and Vegeta's daughter's name?

**—Cindy, Plantation, Fla.**

As a pun Toriyama created, every member of Bulma's family is named after some kind of underwear. The family name is Briefs, after all, and Bulma means "bloomers" in Japanese. Her son Trunks…well, duh. In the original Japanese, their daughter's name is actually Bra! "Bulla is what we call her," says director Bevins. "For a family show, we decided that we should probably just call her something different that's close to Bulma, but not quite."

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## END GAMES

### The Strange, Secret Origin of 'DBGT'

TORI YAMA
AKIRA TORIYAMA

If you're wondering why this new Dragon Ball series is different from the first two, you might be surprised to hear that the Goku's creator ended his saga before *GT* ever began.

Toei Animation, the makers of the *Dragon Ball Z* anime, were understandably upset when original author Akira Toriyama decided to end *DBZ* after 42 manga volumes and 444 anime episodes (he named it "Z" because that's the *last* letter, get it?). After all, it would effectively end the anime and cut the 3 billion yen cash crop they were making. So Toei decided go ahead on their own—and premiered *DBGT* just one week after the last episode of *DBZ* in January of 1996.

Although the story was created entirely by Toei, Toriyama did have his hand in, if just a little. "He had some involvement in the preliminary character designs," says director Chris Bevins. "For example, he designed both the robot Giru and the space ship that Pan, Trunks, Giru and Goku all travel in through the first saga."

The lack of Toriyama's storytelling hurt the show. While *DBZ* garnered a massive 25 percent of Japanese TV viewers at its peak in 1993 (sinking to a 13.5% during 1996), Toei somehow failed to realize the draw of *DBZ* was its action and made *GT* an adventure comedy. The ratings sunk lower, until Toei's studio writers finally wised up and added super-villains like Baby, as well as multi-episode-long fights, and raised the ratings back 14%. But between the lack of Toriyama's storytelling and the weird plot inconsistencies, *DBGT* never reached the same level of success... in Japan.

But in America, FUNimation seems to have made the right choice—*DBGT* DVDs are out-selling even *DBZ* at the videostores. Who knows what ratings it'll bring on Cartoon Network this November? **AW**

**Will Cell come back in *DBGT*?**

**—Keith, Newport, Va.**

In the words of Eric, voice of Trunks, "Yes. Big time." SPOILER WARNING! But how, you might ask? Yes, Cell is still dead, and no, he doesn't escape from the afterlife. During episode 43, the dead Cell and Frieza actually team up to face off against Goku, who gets trapped in the Underworld by a trick of the deceased spirits Dr. Myuu and Dr. Gero!

**If Saiyans' hair is fixed, how does Vegeta grow a mustache? And why did he think it was a good idea?**

**—Loree, Indianapolis, Ind.**

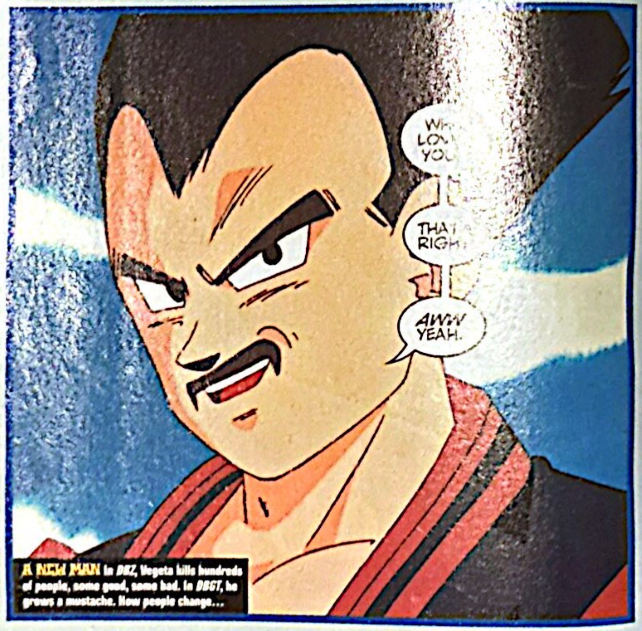
While Vegeta is often quoted for saying all Saiyans' hair is fixed in *DBZ*, he must have been only referring to head hair, because he grows a thick 'stache in *GT*. "I think he was tired of having a lip scowl," Mike McFarland offers, "and this way he could hide it." There could be many reasons why he grew it, but no explanation really stands out. The only thing for sure about the mustache is when Bulla criticizes it in episode 25, Vegeta looks ready to kill himself and next day, the lip hair is gone.

**Who is the strongest character of all in *Dragon Ball/Z/GT*?!**

**—Christen, Las Vegas, Nev.**

Just like the fans, even the guys running *DBGT* have conflicting opinions. "I would have to say it's the shape-shifting cat Puar," reveals Mike McFarland. "No, it's Goku's wife Chi Chi," retorts Eric Vale. But if you really want to know... SPOILER WARNING! As the final episodes reveal, the absolute strongest character in the *DBZ/GT* universe is... Super Saiyan 4 Gogeta! SS4 Gogeta is the result of a temporary fusion of Goku and Vegeta in their SS4 forms, much like Vegito resulted from their fusion during *DBZ*. The reason he turns into Gogeta and not Vegito is because instead of using the Fusion-inducing Potara earrings (which made Vegito in *DBZ*), Goku and Vegeta perform the Fusion dance (the way Goku's son Goten and Vegeta's kid Trunks turn into Gotenks in *DBZ*), creating Gogeta.

*San Antonio, [illegible]-based freelance writer Alysson [illegible] still can't figure out how Krillin [illegible]*



**A NEW MAN** In *DBZ*, Vegeta kills hundreds of people, some good, some bad. In *DBGT*, he grows a mustache. How people change...

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# Breaking In

## HOW TO PUT YOUR FOOT THROUGH THE DOOR AND LAND A JOB IN THE ANIME BIZ

By Zac Bertschy

Lawyers, doctors and scientists. Average people call them successful. We call them losers. What else can they be, since they don't work in the anime business? Maybe lawyers who work *for* anime companies are cool, but they pale in comparison to the lucky bastards responsible for creating the series themselves. Those are the kinds of people we always wanted to be, but we got stuck working at a magazine for no money. You, however, still have a chance. A *good* chance.

As long as you're pointed in the right direction, it's not hard to get a leg-up on the competition. As Shoko Oono, senior translator for ADV Films, states, "It's not that there are too many people applying for these jobs, it's just that most of them aren't qualified to do it."

Luckily for you, we can show you the way. While there's nothing we can do to help with the big jobs like character designers (those are reserved for the Japanese big-wigs), we've unearthed the secrets behind getting the best jobs in the American anime industry...and even a few overseas.

Get your pencils ready and take notes, because when it's time to take this test, it's your career on the line...

## VOICE ACTORS

**What They Do:** Yell. Scream. Laugh. Stutter. Spit. Voice actors need to be experts in almost anything you can do with your mouth. And they have to do it to the beat of someone else's drum. "They have to create a performance from a character that has already been animated and voiced in another language," explains Jonathan Klein, vice-president of and director for New Generation Pictures, "while keeping with the timing of the existing lip movements." It's long, hard work, but at least you get to dress like crap if you want.

**What They Get:** Most voice actors are freelancers who get paid by the hour with no benefits. The standard Screen Actor's Guild rate is $64.25 an hour with a two-hour minimum, but some companies hire non-SAG people for as little as $25 an hour to save money.

**How To Get In:** You've heard of screen actors spending years studying at Juilliard? If you want to be a great voice actor, your path isn't that different. "You're going to be competing against people who are skilled, full-fledged actors," warns Jason Douglas, the voice of Louie in ADV's *Rune Soldier*. "The competition is getting rougher as anime grows in popularity, so the best thing you can arm yourself with is training. Any aspiring voice actor should go to a university and gets his or her degree in acting."

Equally important, according to Justin Cook, voice of Yusuke for FUNimation's *Yu Yu Hakusho*, is real-world experience. "I did radio deejaying and produced commercials, and they primed me for voice acting better than anything else," he says.

Once you've got the skills, it's time to start looking for work. Move to a city where the major dub studios are (i.e. New York, Houston or Los Angeles) and look for open auditions in the classifieds. Prepare a demo CD that shows off your vocal range and stay focused. "You're going to get turned away a hundred times before your first gig, and once you get that, you need to build on it," says Cook. "Keep working and don't get discouraged."

When you're in, get ready to give it your all. "I voiced Super Buu in *Dragon Ball Z*, and he died by having his body collapsing into Kid Buu," recalls Cook. "He began this yell where his mouth collapsed into his chest. I yelled until he shut his mouth, which took so long I passed out. My engineer left the tape running, so I heard the thud on the tape!"

**Further Research:** Hit voiceover-training.com. They plan workshops and help folks get cast.

**TALK TO THE HAND** No one told *Licensed by Royalty* voice actress Erica Shaffer hand gestures don't matter in sound recording.

## ADR DIRECTORS

**What They Do:** Those voice actors you just read about? Someone's gotta tell 'em what to do, and the ADR Directors are it. The guys in charge of Automatic Dialogue Replacement have to supervise the entire English dubbing, from the translation of the script to getting that last hiccup just right.

**What They Get:** For all that the director does, they have to prove themselves the most. A starting ADR Director might make around $25,000, and after years of experience and good work, end up making $100,000.

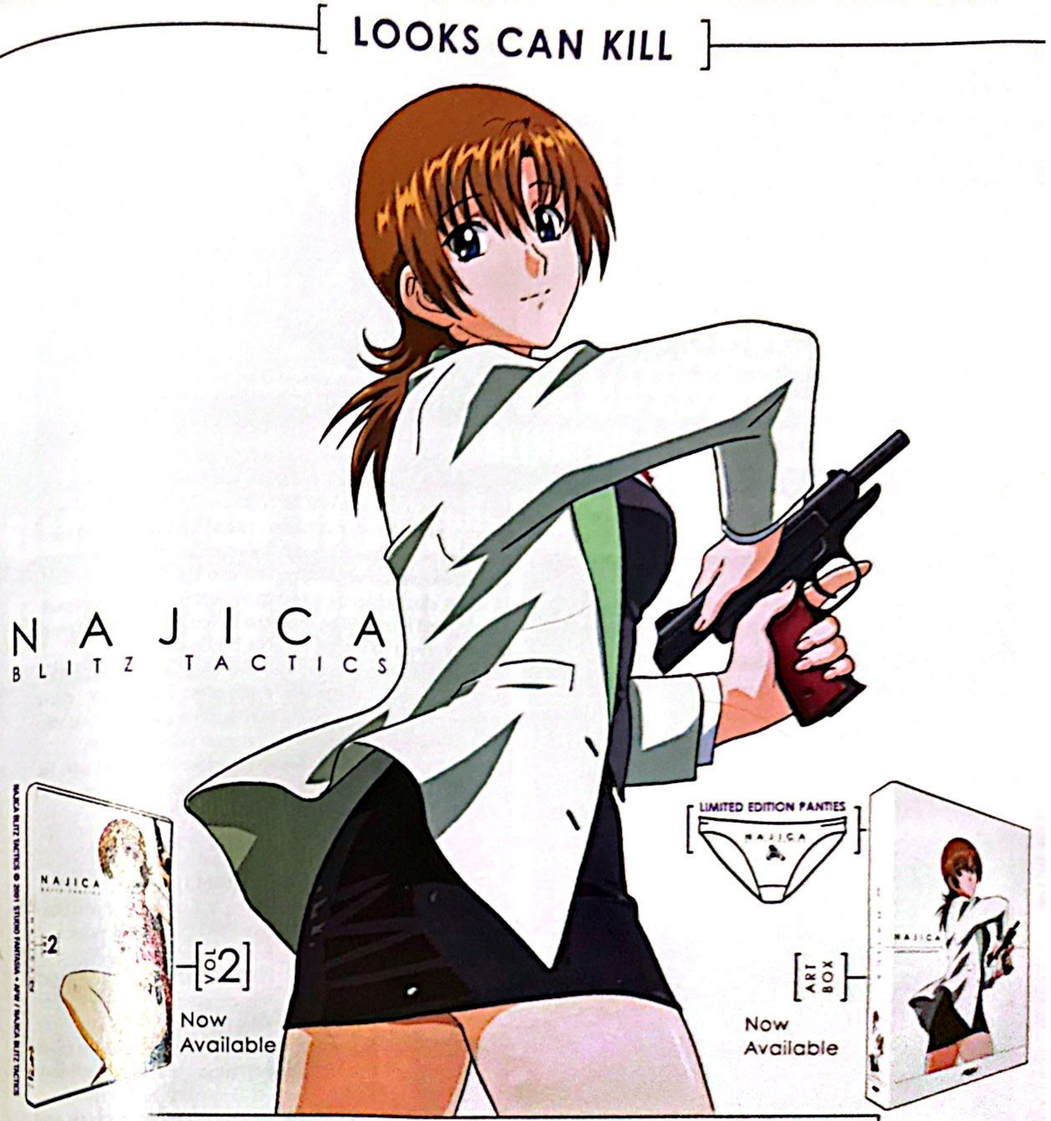
**How To Get In:** Steven Spielberg was directing home movies as a child, and ADR Spielbergs should be no different. "My advice is to get involved in directing on your own, whether it's a short film, a radio drama or a stage play," says Jonathan Klein, ADR director for New Generation Pictures. "There are opportunities to do this through your college or you can try doing it on your own. You don't need much other than a good idea for a story, a tape recorder, and some people w[illegible] work with you." It also doesn't hurt to do a little acting you[illegible] see how it feels when somebody is directing you. "Some of my best anime directors I've worked with have been actors themselves," adds Klein.

This way you'll see how ADR directing isn't just matching up the voices with the animated mouths. "You are directing actors to put life into the show in English," adds New Generation president and director Reiko Matsuo. "You don't have to make the show like the Japanese. You can be creative as long as you don't destroy original meanings and natures of the characters."

You also need to be willing to go the distance to make the performances perfect. "I once had a scene where my character was being tickled," remembers New Generation voice actor Ted Sroka. "Well, the director didn't think I sounded natural, so she came in the booth to tickle me. Unfortunately, her tickling was painful, resulting in high-pitched, shrill screams."

**Further Research:** Most accredited universities will have a top-notch Media Arts program, with classes on how to get your start in film direction. Specialty schools like Full Sail and Ringling are expensive, but feature job placement programs.

Photos: Reggie Cassagrande



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## ANIMATORS

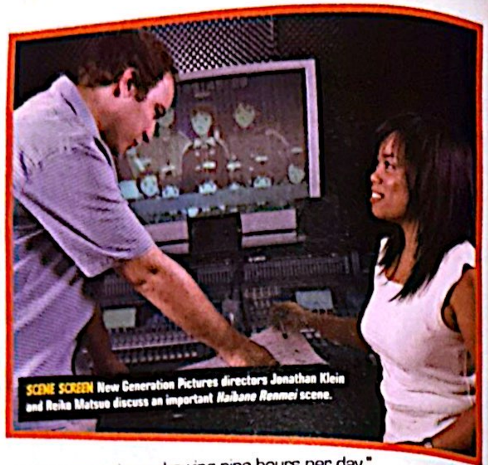
**What They Do:** The holy grail of anime jobs, the animator actually creates what we see on screen. They make the characters move, create effects, compose the colors—all mostly by computer, as the days of painting cels are numbered.

**What They Get:** Japan's where anime gets made, and they pay their lackeys about $17,000 a year. In America, you'd get $65,000, but good luck finding work.

**How To Get It:** You have to be an artistic and digital wizard, and for that you need school. Go to a liberal art college, but make sure they have an animation degree, because everything else is useless.

Justin Leach is an American-born animator who got a job at Production I.G, one of Japan's top-tier animation studios, thanks to good class choices. "My first major was Illustration, which I then later changed to Computer Animation. In 1997, I graduated with a B.F.A. in Computer Animation."

Besides the technological know-how, you have to master the art skills. "I can't stress figure drawing enough," adds Leach. "It contains all the basic elements: light, form, texture, movement and musculature. I used to sit in on some figure drawing classes, sometimes drawing nine hours per day."



**SCENE SCREEN** New Generation Pictures directors Jonathan Klein and Reiko Matsuo discuss an important *Haibane Renmei* scene.

To land one of the jobs in Japan, you have to be as easy to work with as your Japanese competition. "You have to be able to communicate fluently in Japanese," says Eiji Mizutani, Production I.G. producer and Leach's boss. "It's important to seek harmony within the company by being mindful of the culture."

You've also got to be willing to walk the walk. "The hours are long and much will be expected of you, so you really need to demonstrate your superior skills," adds Leach.

To apply, most anime studios have a job listings section on their Web site—in Japanese. If you can't read it yet, don't bother. In the meantime, create an online portfolio so you can give anime studios a chance to see your skills in action.

**Further Research:** Jan Scott Frazier, another American who hit the Japanese scene, has a page about her experiences at sockfairy.com/scott/animinjp/index.htm.

## Climbing the ladder

### Think you're ready for the big time? Here's where to send your résumé.

Time to get off the couch, people. If you want a job in any industry, you shouldn't wait for the classified ads. Be aggressive and send in your resumes even if your favorite company isn't hiring yet. When they start, you'll be first in line. Here are the addresses, e-mail addresses and Web sites you need to focus on.

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PO Box 6054
Cypress, CA 90630
pr@bandai-ent.com

**CENTRAL PARK MEDIA**
Attn: Resumes
250 W 57th St Suite 317
New York City, NY 10107

**FUNIMATION PRODUCTIONS**
Attn: Human Resources
6851 N.E. Loop 820, Suite 247
Fort Worth, TX 76180

**PRODUCTION I.G**
ING Studio, 3-4-5, Minami Cho,
Kokubunji-shi
Tokyo, Japan 185-0021
http://www.production-ig.co.jp/info/jobs

**TOKYOPOP**
resumes@tokyopop.com
http://www.tokyopop.com/aboutus/jobs.php

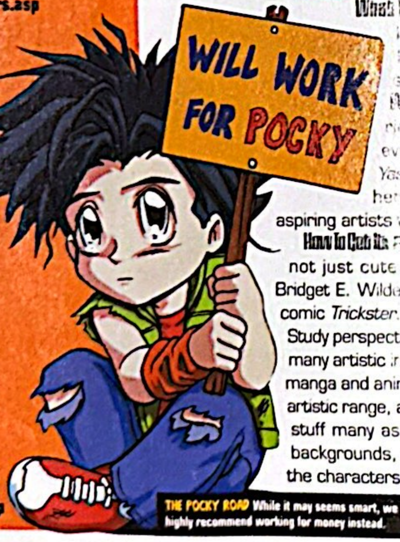
## MANGA [illegible]ATORS

**What [illegible]** Conceiving, writing, [illegible], sketching and then [illegible]ng your own piece of [illegible] art.

**[illegible]:** Manga-ka can get [illegible]-tarve to death. For [illegible] Takahashi (*Inu-Yasha*) [illegible]'s become wealthy off her [illegible], there are tons of aspiring artists [illegible] for their break.

**How To Get It:** Pr[illegible] "Draw constantly, and not just cute manga characters," says Bridget E. Wilde, creator of the manga-style comic *Trickster*. "Draw anything you can see. Study perspective, study anatomy. Take in as many artistic influences as you can—not just manga and anime." This will give you a better artistic range, and you'll concentrating on the stuff many aspiring artists forget about—backgrounds, objects...everything besides the characters.

Be careful not to emulate what you see too closely.



**THE POCKY ROAD** While it may seems smart, we highly recommend working for money instead.

COMICS · TOYS · ANIME · MANGA · GAMING · TV · MOVIES

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NOVEMBER 21-23
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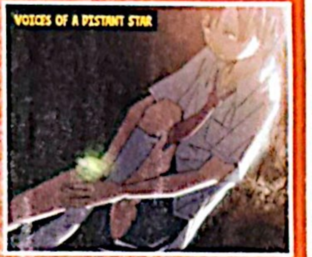
## Byte By Byte

### Forget Breaking Into The Biz—Get A Computer, and Do It Yourself

SHINKAI

**All these jobs are well and good, but nothing beats making your own, complete anime, all by yourself. Just ask Makoto Shinkai. He created the fan-favorite OVA *Voices of a Distant Star* on his home computer. Just get ready to do the work.**

**"The production time alone took seven months," recalls Shinkai of his 25-minute anime. Doing the production yourself means handling the character designs, writing the script, drawing the storyboards, creating the backgrounds, making the animation, performing the special effects and then voice dubbing and the musical soundtrack, if any.**


VOICES OF A DISTANT STAR

**If you've got that kind of time, you'll still need a mega-computer and several high-end computer programs. "The computer I used was then a Macintosh G4," says Shinkai. "Currently I am using a Power Mac G4. I also used Adobe Photoshop to create the art and backgrounds, and I used Adobe After Effect for the editing. For three-dimensional CG elements such as the mecha, I used the Lightwave rendering program." These three programs will cost around $2,900 together, while the lowest-priced G4 computer is $1,300—meaning it'll run extra slow if you try to pull all the quality *Distant Star* has.**

**Then you can post it on the Internet for the world to enjoy. But if you want to make a bit of dough for your hard work, you'll need someone to sell your anime. "The distribution company CoMix Wave partnered with me on my projects," says Shinkai. "They figured out the release date, our strategy of how to release the projects, and how to reach the target audience and fans." Unless you know the foreman of a DVD-processing plant and the buyers for a few retail stores personally, we advise you let someone else handle that. After all the work you've done, you deserve a little break. ■ ZB**

though. "I'm hoping you'll show me something that I can't see anywhere else," says TOKYOPOP senior editor Mark Paniccia. "I don't care if you can draw exactly like your favorite artist. I want you to become *my* favorite artist."

Once you've got the skills, then you have to let people know about it, since unless you can start up your own publishing company your goal is to have someone else sign you up. While making your own hand-made 'zines gives you something to hand out at cons, the Web has become the premiere showcase for new talent, and hosting sites like Keenspace.com offer free space for your creation. The mega-popular Webcomic *MegaTokyo* got its start this way, drawing thousands of Web-surfers until I.C. Entertainment and Dark Horse published it.

**Further Research:** Hone your art skills by with art books from howtodrawmanga.com; for storytelling, Scott McCloud's opus *Understanding Comics* is required reading.

## TRANSLATORS

**What They Do:** These unsung heroes translate the source material into English; getting the original meaning of the Japanese and having it make sense is no mean feat.

**What They Get:** Full-time translators make around $20,000-$30,000 based on prior experience. However, a lot of companies hire freelance translators, hiring anywhere for $20 to $50 per page of script.

**How To Get In:** As the anime industry is booming, there's a growing need for capable translators. The keyword there is "capable"—speaking fluent Japanese and English is nothing without the patience for this slow and demanding job. "It's hard to find qualified people," says ADV translator Shooko Ono.

**BURNING JAPANESE** With three alphabets and thousands of characters, you'll have your head full learning Japanese.

"There are a lot of people w[illegible] translate, but not everyone has had that kind of pa[illegible] most people spend their four years in college prepa[illegible] only the most talented people can translate after fo[illegible]

The best way to become [illegible] language is to immerse yourself in it. If you can, sp[illegible] in Japan speaking the language on the streets. If you [illegible] to see how well your skills stand up, there's standard[illegible] Japanese language proficiency tests held nationally, list[illegible] www.jflalc.org/proftest.

Lastly, translators need to be good writers, too. Take as many writing courses as you can in college, anything to give you an ear for dialogue and character development. Then expand your vocabulary in both English and Japanese. It'll make your job easier...once you get it.

**Further Research:** When choosing a university, you may want to select one that is noted for its Japanese program. SUNY University at Albany is one such school, known for its excellent East Asian Studies department.

*Freelancer Zac Bertschy broke in, and was himself broken.*

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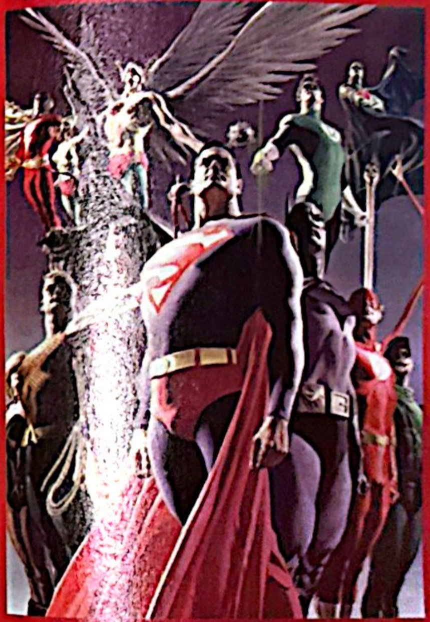

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# VIDEO & DVD

## 'SCROLL' CALL

### BEST BUY NABS FIRST-EVER ANIME DVD EXCLUSIVE WITH 'NINJA SCROLL'

In a media world filled with special deals and added value packages, the new anime DVD release of *Ninja Scroll: The Series* stands out as a unique product—especially if you pick up your copy at Best Buy. There you can pick-up a limited version of *Ninja Scroll*—which also happens to be the first ever store-exclusive anime DVD.

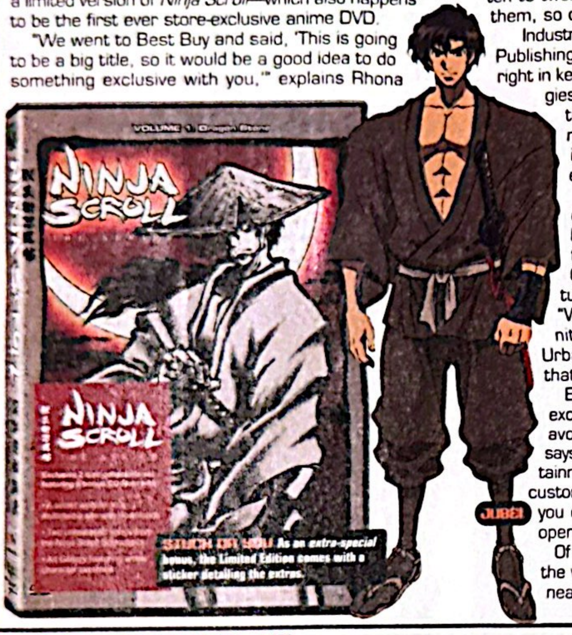
"We went to Best Buy and said, 'This is going to be a big title, so it would be a good idea to do something exclusive with you,'" explains Rhona Medina, product development manager for Urban Vision, the licensor of *Ninja Scroll*. The special edition contains a bonus CD-ROM featuring bonus art galleries, unreleased music, computer decorations and more. "We did about ten to twelve thousand copies of the Limited Edition for them, so once they are gone, they are gone."

Industry expert Jim Lyle, president of NYC-based Video Publishing Resources, concurs that the special deal is right in keeping with Best Buy's current marketing strategies. "As a retailer Best Buy's goal is to be the new technology retailer, both in physical and digital media," Lyle says. "So having exclusive windows is a key piece of their strategy. The *Ninja Scroll* exclusive is another step on that path."

"Anime has been an aggressive growth category for Best Buy over the last year, and they have been really interested in providing something innovative to their customers," says Marie O'Reilly, director of national accounts for Ventura Distribution, who helped broker the deal. "When we mentioned the marketing opportunity that an exclusive bonus disc would offer Urban Vision, they were very excited to execute that opportunity."

But all anime distributors aren't so sure that exclusives are beneficial. "One thing you want to avoid is alienating your other customer bases," says Jerry Chu, marketing manager of Bandai Entertainment. "If you do a deal like that, you'll have other customers saying, 'What's so special? Why didn't you do this with us?' You don't want to do that. It opens up a whole new can of worms."

Of course, when these special deals are made, the winners are the consumers...at least the ones near a Best Buy. ■ [illegible]



**STUCK ON YOU** As an extra-special bonus, the Limited Edition comes with a sticker detailing the extras.

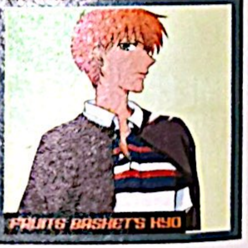
## FAST FORWARD

QUICK PEEKS AT THE NEXT [illegible] VIDEOS

**CATCH THE WIND** For the upcoming release of Hayao Miyazaki's *Nausicäa of the Valley of Wind* on DVD in Japan, Buena Vista Home Entertainment is releasing three, count 'em, three different versions of the film! Included with the most expensive *Nausicäa* "Collector's Edition" is a limited Nausicäa figurine, an Ohmu model, and a framed portrait of Nausicäa herself.

**BLAST FROM THE PAST** Consumers usually have to deal with rising prices, but this time someone's passing the savings on to you! As of January 1st, 2004, Central Park Media is dropping the price on several of their titles, including *Cybernetics Guardian*, *Garaga*, *Grappler Baki*, *Harmageddon*, *Judge* and *RG Veda*, down to a miniscule $9.99.

**BOX OF PRODUCE** Tired of your *Fruits Basket* DVDs spilling all over the place? FUNimation will be releasing a collector's art box to hold their fantastic shôjo series. No word on when they'll release it, but they promise it will be available with all four DVDs or by itself for folks who have already purchased the series. ■ Zac Bertschy



FRUITS BASKET'S KYO

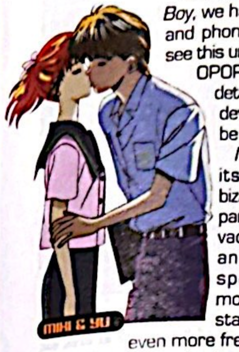
## READY FOR THIS JELLY?

### 'MARMALADE BOY' UNJARS A VERY STICKY ROMANCE IN APRIL

When TOKYOPOP announced in 2001 that they were bringing over the beloved romantic masterpiece *Marmalade Boy*, fans were ecstatic. Then they were mad...because no videos or DVDs ever came. Well, otaku craving a great shôjo title in general or a very specific sweet taste of jam can turn that frown upside down, because *Marmalade Boy* finally hits DVD in April of 2004.

"Ever since we initially announced *Marmalade Boy*, we have been flooded with e-mails, letters and phone calls from fans who are dying to see this unique series," said John Parker, TOKYOPOP's President and COO. "We were determined to do it right, and have finally developed a DVD release so cool, it will be well worth the wait."

*Marmalade Boy* is legendary both for its great romance and its utterly bizarre premise. Young schoolgirl Miki's parents return home from a Hawaiian vacation with big news: they've met another couple; they've swapped spouses with them; and they're moving in...immediately. Miki, understandably, is freaked out. But she's even more freaked out to discover she suddenly has a new "brother" named Yu...and she's falling in love with him!



MIKI & YU

"Everyone at TOKYOPOP is excited to work on and release this fan favorite!" says Jennifer Wagner, creative director for *Marmalade Boy*. "Simply put, *Marmalade Boy* has an addictively fun story."

The successful TV series ran for 76 episodes back in Japan from 1994 to 1995. TOKYOPOP, who already publishes the original *Marmalade Boy* comic by renowned shojo manga-ka Wataru Yoshizumi, plans to release the first 18 episodes in a deluxe, three-disc boxed set, packed with extras next April, with the rest of the series to follow throughout 2004. ■ Robert Bricken

**A STICKY SITUATION** Brothers and sisters falling in love?! Didn't these kids watch *Star Wars*?

## EASTERN EGGS

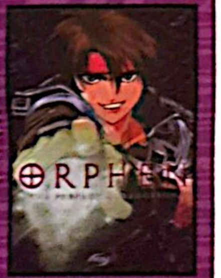
### HIDDEN SECRETS OF YOUR FAVORITE DVDS

**BERSERK VOL. 6**
Highlight the "Extras" menu and press enter. Scroll down until you've highlighted "Paint By Berserk". Pressing left or right will reveal a series of CG scenes and a few gags cooked up by the DVD production staff!

EL-HAZARD
The Magnificent World
DVD Box Set

**EL-HAZARD: THE MAGNIFICENT WORLD**
For a special greeting from Rune Venus, scroll until you're highlighting "Enter the Magnificent World." Press the left button on your remote and hit enter to see the video.

**ORPHEN VOL. 3**
Highlight the last option on the main menu, "Languages." Press the left button; Orphen's wrist will highlight. You'll then see a series of dub outtakes and a short conversation about the various complaints fandom had about Orphen's dub!



**SUPERDIMENSIONAL FORTRESS MACROSS**
Go to the "Settings" menu from the main menu. Once the menu loads, scroll down until you've highlighted "Main Menu," but don't press enter; instead, press "down" and hit enter, and you'll see a secret slide show of 52 pieces of character art and mecha design!

**TWIN SIGNAL**
Highlight the "Extras" menu and press enter. Go to the "Paper Dolls" section. If you put the wedding gown on Signal, and then click enter again, you'll see a series of outtakes from the show's dub! ■ ZB

# THE SHELF

## WHAT'S IN STORE FOR ANIME STORES THIS WINTER?

## NOVEMBER

### ANGELIC LAYER VOL. 2

Misaki continues her advancement through the Angelic Layer games, sending the increasingly powerful Hikaru out in battle after battle. Not all is what it seems though; what is the mystery surrounding Misaki's mother? (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### BABEL II: TESTAMENT OF THE APOCALYPSE SET

Somewhere in the endless desert, the tower of Babel stands, willed into existence by an unknown entity; meanwhile, Koichi has been gifted with amazing powers to fight off a team of villainous psychics. (Media Blasters, DVD, $39.95)

### BERSERK PREMIUM COLLECTION SET

Guts, the black swordsman, finds himself embroiled in politics, love, and more demon-slaying antics than you can shake a gigantic broadsword at. (Media Blasters, DVD, $139.95)

### BOYS OVER FLOWERS VOL. 2

Makino Tsukushi's valiant fight against the Flowery Four continues. Makino struggles with her growing attraction to two of the F4's charter members, making her battle against their cruel ways that much more difficult. (Viz, DVD, $24.98)

### BRIGADOON VOL. 4

Marin's life was perfectly normal until a gigantic object in the sky called Brigadoon targeted her for capture. It's up to a mysterious blue robot named Melan to swoop in for the rescue. (TOKYOPOP, DVD, $29.98)

### CARD CAPTOR SAKURA VOL. 18

Sakura's insecurity gets the best of her, so she travels to the past to ask Clow Reed if she's a worthy successor to the cards. Upon her return, Eriol has put the entire town to sleep! (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

**FULL OF SMILES** Actually, Chidori doesn't have much to be happy about in the new *Full Metal Panic* DVD.

### CERES, CELESTIAL LEGEND BOX SET 2

Need your angst-y bishounen melodrama fix? This includes episodes 13-24, the end of *Fushigi Yugi* creator Yu Watase's second most popular series. Includes an exclusive sleeve illustration from Watase herself! (Viz, DVD, $49.98)

### CHOBITS VOL. 5

Chi has finally found a good job at Tirol, but when Hideki sends her to work one morning, she's kidnapped by an obsessive scientist with a lust for the secrets of the Chobits! (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### EDEN'S BOWY VOL 5: EDEN'S WAR

As Yorn and his gang of would-be heroes trudge ever onward in their quest for justice and the end nears, a myriad of assorted dangerous obstacles get in the way. As the past is revealed, the future becomes ever cloudier. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### FIGURE 17 VOL. 2

The second volume of the first anime show ever to have hour-long episodes! Tsubasa and Hikaru continue to combine, becoming the alien defense robot Figure 17. The question is, will they have time for homework? Includes three complete episodes. (Media Blasters, DVD, $29.98)

### FIST OF THE NORTH STAR VOL. 5

Seven episodes of head-exploding, chest-pounding action. Kenshiro and Rei continue their bloody journey across the apocalyptic wasteland, searching for Shin. (Manga Entertainment, DVD, $24.95)

### FULL METAL PANIC: MISSION 05

The action heats up as the forces of Mithril are pitted against their greatest enemy yet. Can Sagara Sousuke keep Chidori out of danger long enough to keep the secrets locked inside her body out of enemy hands? (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

## HOT PICK

### CYBER FORUMLA GPX

November 11th on DVD, $99.99, Bandai Entertainment

Set in the year 2015, *Cyber Formula GPX* follows plucky young Hayato, king of the Cyber Formula racing circuit. Hayato is special for a few reasons, not the least of which because he's the 14-year old pilot of the Asurada, a sought-after Cyber Formula prototype. The Asurada is a super-fast, super-efficient car with enough special attachments and gizmos to make James Bond turn green, and comes equipped with a jive-talking computer navigation system. Hayato joins the Sugo racing team, destined to win the official 2015 Cyber Formula racing championship, but that's easier said than done when a team of mysterious [illegible] show up looking to take [illegible] study his mysterious [illegible] heat up! It's a story of [illegible] trayal and plenty of speed [illegible] ars up the raceway, [illegible] series of special boost [illegible] ve his foes eating [illegible] collected all 37 episodes [illegible] g-awaited TV series [illegible] series in one gigan[illegible] your engines. ■ ZB

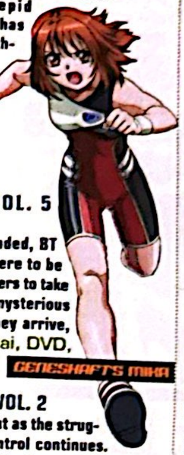
SUGO
FUTURE GPX
CYBER FORMULA
COMPLETE COLLECTION
DVD

### GENESHAFT VOL. 4

The death of a shipmate makes things harder for the intrepid crew, but the worst has yet to come. It's a ruthless fight to the finish between Sergei and Hiroto for the fate of all mankind. (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### .HACK://SIGN VOL. 5 SPECIAL EDITION

With the party disbanded, BT and Subaru are nowhere to be found, until Tsukasa offers to take Subaru in to see the mysterious floating girl! When they arrive, she's missing. (Bandai, DVD, $39.98)



GENESHAFT'S MIKA

### INFINITE RYVIUS VOL. 2

Tension begins to mount as the struggle for power and control continues. When the control mechanism for the defense robot Vital Guarder is discovered, two kids must train to use it. (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE VOL. 2

The vampire Dio continues to roll out a bevy of STAND-using punks to stop the stalwart Jojo from rescuing his mother. Can Jojo and his band of warriors bring the vampire to justice? (Super Techno Arts, DVD, $29.98)

### KING OF BANDIT JING VOL. 4

The conclusion sees our hero chasing after an icy mask worn by a wicked queen, and entering a battle tournament for the hand of the queen's daughter. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### LAST EXILE [illegible]. 1

Air couriers [illegible] and Lavie become entangled in an epic [illegible] between two countries in Studio Gon[illegible] beautifully animated 10th anniversary [illegible] ion series. (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### LICENSED [illegible] OYALTY VOL. 1

Join secret ag[illegible] Rowe and Hugh as they track down the cri[illegible] al element, help defend the royal family, [illegible] vart an underhanded museum curator and double-cross a double-crosser! (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### LOVE HINA MOVIE BOX SET

Includes the *Christmas* movie, the *Spring* movie, the *Love Hina Again* three-part OVA and episode 25! This is your last chance to see Keitaro get Naru's right hook and affection. (Bandai, DVD, $59.98)

### MAISON IKKOKU BOX SET 2

College student Godai will stop at nothing to win Maison Ikkoku's beautiful and demure manager Kyoko's hand, but the rest of Ikkoku's residents can't help but interfere! (Viz, DVD, $49.98)

### NADESICO: THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS

Yurika's been kidnapped by a mysterious organization known as the Sons of Mars, Akito is nowhere to be found, and the disbanded crew of the Nadesico must rely on an older, wiser Ruri Hoshino to bring it all together. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### NEON GENESIS EVANGELION BOX SET

This is the definitive version of the end of Hideaki Anno's celebrated mecha show in a handy collector's box. Includes *Death and Rebirth* and *End of Evangelion.* (Manga Entertainment, DVD, $49.95)

### ORIGINAL DIRTY PAIR: FLIGHT 005 CONSPIRACY

The Lovely Angels have been assigned to two cases: a missing scientist, and a space liner explosion that claimed 300 lives. While the cases seem unrelated, Kei and Yuri fit the pieces together and face an incredible danger. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

**FACE FRONT** Kaolla Su spoils the final *Love Hina* group picture.

### PLEASE TEACHER! VOL. 4

The thrilling finale! Kei slips into another standstill and Mizuho has to make the ultimate decision: revive her beloved and break Galaxy Federation protocol, or save her job? (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### PRETEAR VOL. 1

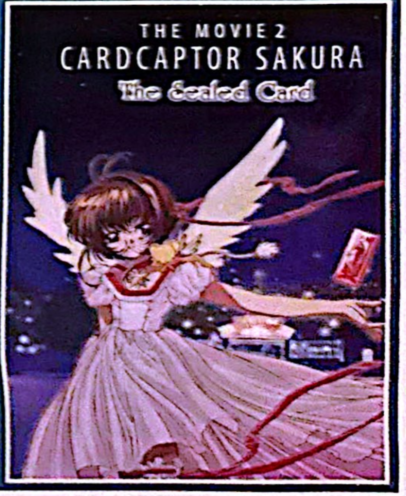
When Himeno walks through the park, a meeting with mysterious strangers reveals that she's the legendary magical girl Pretear! (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

## HOT PICK

### CARDCAPTOR SAKURA THE MOVIE 2: THE SEALED CARD

November 11th on DVD, $29.98, Pioneer Animation

She's back, and better than before! CLAMP's super-popular magical girl returns for one final movie, which wraps up everything in Sakura's world, bestowing upon her the final Clow Card and dealing with her long-tormented relationship with brooding bad boy Shaoran Li. A mysterious new card is stealing Sakura's Clow Cards and making big chunks of Sakura's hometown disappear. When the card's power starts threatening Sakura's most beloved friends and family, things get personal, and it's an all-out card-wielding brawl to the finish! Can Sakura, along with winged sidekick Keroberos and best friend Tomoyo stop the new card before it wills Sakura's life out of existence? Can Shaoran Li grow up a little and admit that he has the hots for Sakura? Find out when Pioneer releases both a standard edition and a super-special limited edition of this beautifully animated film. Also included is the thrilling animated short *Leave it to Kero-chan*, in which the yellow winged one and his rival Suppi battle it out for the last deep-fried octopus ball. If you've never seen a talking, stuffed teddy bear drive a Cadillac convertible, now's your chance. ■ ZB



### RANMA 1/2: RANMA FOREVER BOX SET

The final season of Rumiko Takahashi's beloved martial-arts/comedy series. Will Ranma ever be cured of his half-girl curse? Will Ranma and Akane stop fighting long enough to admit their affection for each other? (Viz, DVD, $119.98)

### REIGN BOX SET

*Aeon Flux* creator Peter Cheung's science-fiction take on the life of ancient Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great took off on Cartoon Network; now's your chance to see what everyone is talking about. (TOKYOPOP, DVD, $69.99)

### RISKY SAFETY VOL. 3

The conclusion to the hyper-cute, short series. A powerful forces strikes directly at Moe and Yuya's relationship, and it's up to Risky and Safety to work together to save her! (AN Entertainment, DVD, $29.98)

### RUNE SOLDIER VOL. 5: FISTS OF FOLLY

Just when Melissa and her troupe of stalwart female adventurers think they've had enough of Louie's incessant bumbling, the sorcerer finally shows his true power and dazzles them all! (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### RUROUNI KENSHIN PREMIUM BOX SET

The first thrilling season of the smash hit samurai series! In the historic Meiji era of Japan, a mysterious samurai with a reverse-blade sword arrives at a troubled dojo. (Media Blasters, DVD, $139.98)

### SAKURA WARS TV VOL. 5

When Sakura finally headlines at the Imperial Flower Combat Troop's new revue, not everyone is throwing roses at the stage. The villainous Satani has other plans for our heroine, and they don't include a pay-or-play contract! (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### SCRYED VOL. 3

The time of judgment has come, and HOLD troops have invaded the Lost Ground. When Kanami and Kimishima are captured, Kazuma flies into a rampage, attacking any HOLD or HOLY employee he can get his hands on! (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### SLAYERS RETURN

Naga accepts a bracelet made from the precious metal Orichalcum, but little does she know it attracts the attention of a dangerous, destructive golem that threatens a nearby village! (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### SOMEDAY'S DREAMERS VOL. 1

Magic is commonplace in Tokyo, provided you have the right permit. When 15-year old mage Yume gets hired, her boss gets more than he expected. (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

**DREAM ON** *Someday's Dreamers'* Yume keeps a good attitude despite three hours of waiting in line for her magic permit.

### SORCERER HUNTERS OVA

Follow the final adventures of Carrot, Tira and Chocolate as they fight back the wicked sorcerers that plague their land and threaten the innocent. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### TWELVE KINGDOMS VOL. 3

The plot thickens for poor Youko and her mouse friend Rakushun. The hostile lands of the Twelve Countries are no place for a depressed schoolgirl! (Media Blasters, DVD, $29.98)

### X TV VOL. 8

The climactic, dramatic finale of CLAMP's mega-popular odyssey. The Dragons of Heaven, lead by the brooding Kamui, have their final battle with the vicious Dragons of Earth, to determine the fate of the world. (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### YU YU HAKUSHO VOL. 18

The penultimate volume of the Tournament saga! Yusuke and his gang of supernatural badasses make their last bid for an ultimate victory against the Toguro Borthers? Can they win? Or even just live? (FUNimation, DVD, $24.98)

### ZAION: I WISH YOU WERE HERE VOL. 2

The virus has adapted to the nanotechnology the soldiers of NOA use, mutating it into a deadly killing machine. Civilization itself starts to crumble around Ai and Yuuji, and it's every man for himself. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

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## DECEMBER

### ABENOBASHI MAGICAL SHOPPING ARCADE VOL. 1

Gainax's other super-weird hit arrives. Two Osakan kids kind a magical street that leads them through numerous anime parodies. (ADV, DVD, $29.95 alone, $39.95 w/box)

## HOT PICK

### MILLENNIUM ACTRESS

October 28th on DVD, $19.99, Dreamworks

The newest film by Satoshi Kon, director of the smash hit psycho-thriller *Perfect Blue*, *Millennium Actress* is another modern anime classic. Fans won't be disappointed; *Millennium Actress* is a poignant journey through the tumultuous life of aging superstar Chiyoko Fujiwara. Two documentary filmmakers, an extremely passionate director and his intrepid (if less enthused) cameraman, are interviewing Chiyoko at the end of her long [illegible] illustrious career. Her tales lead them [illegible] time, through each of her roles, [illegible] a beautifully animated tapestry [illegible] plays out like an homage to a hundred years of Japanese film, ranging from Kurosawa to Godzilla. But Chiyoko's life [illegible] blurs the lines between fiction and [illegible] as her real life and real loves entwine with her starring roles on the silver [illegible], all captured brilliantly by Satoshi [illegible] understated art direction. The DVD [illegible] a behind-the-scenes documentary, [illegible] well as subtitles only, to preserve the integrity of the original. One of the finest animated films of the year, *Millennium Actress* is not to be missed. ■ ZB

### ARGENTOSOMA VOL. 6

In the final volume, a gigantic alien weapon is headed straight for Earth, and the only one who can stop it is the alien monster Frank. The Funeral team must save both Frank and the Commander, but is it too late? (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### BANNER OF THE STARS VOL. 3

The climactic finale! Lafiel and Jinto's adventures come to a satisfying and beautiful close; see what becomes of the war, of the humans, and of the Abh as the unlikely duo change the course of history. (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### GENMA WARS COLLECTION BOX SET

Two brothers are separated as babies, one sent to the evil lord Genma to take his place, the other to be raised among his native people. When the two battle it out, nobody is safe. (Media Blasters, DVD, $39.95)

### GOEMON: LEGEND OF THE MYSTICAL NINJA VOL. 1

It's taken a while, but one of Japan's best kids' shows is finally here. Goemon is a small ninja with a big head...and heart. (ADV, DVD, $19.98)

### GTO BOX SET 1

For the first time in boxed set form. One of the most popular anime shows of all time, see how—and why—a former motorcycle punk decides to become Great Teacher Onizuka! (TOKYOPOP, DVD, $99.99)

### HAIBANE RENMEI VOL. 3

This wistful, beautiful series nears its end. The Haibane Rakka keeps seeking answers, but is she prepared for the price of her knowledge? (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### HEAT GUY J VOL. 3

Daisuke and J combat a horde of dangerous, knife-licking mafia types that will stop at nothing to see the cybernetic crusader and his suave partner go down in flames! As the final battle approaches, will Daisuke and J finally face Claire? (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### I'M GONNA BE AN ANGEL VOL. 2

The long-awaited second disc to a hypnotically-cute series. Yuusuke is an 8th grader living with a girl who claims to be both an angel *and* his wife. Then things get weird. (SynchPoint, DVD, $29.95)

### INU-YASHA VOL. 12 & 13

It's a furious fighting frenzy as Inu-Yasha and Kagome continue to fight the evil Naraku and his seemingly endless waves of corruption. (Viz, DVD, 24.98)

### INU-YASHA BOX SET 1

Includes the first nine episodes of the series; relive the adventure as Kagome falls into demon-infested feudal Japan, and finds she's the reincarnation of the only priestess who can save the world! (Viz, DVD, $49.98)

### KIKAIDER VOL. 3

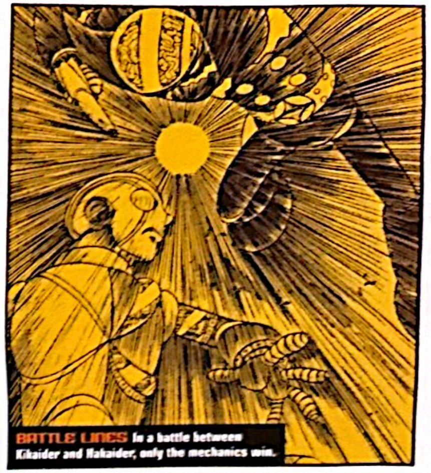
Android Jiro's questionable romance with his creator's daughter slowly starts to unravel as new enemies approach; can Jiro overcome his own inner demons long enough to take out the bad guys? (Bandai, DVD, $29.98)

### MASTER KEATON VOL. 4

Detective Keaton thwarts a bevy of evil-doers, uncovers secret treasures, saves the girl and gives Matlock a run for his money. (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

### MIRAGE OF BLAZE VOL. 4

Takaya, Chiaki, Naoe and Yuzura scour the land looking for evil spirits, hoping to vanquish the ever-increasing Feudal Underworld before it's too late. (Media Blasters, DVD, $29.98)



**BATTLE LINES** In a battle between Kikaider and Hakaider, only the mechanics win.

### SADAMITSU THE DESTROYER VOL. 1

Based on a legendary live-action series, Sadamitsu follows the adventures of a motorcycle punk with the amazing ability to transform into the heroic Sadamitsu, who must right the wrongs of the world. (ADV, DVD, $29.98)

### SAKURA TAISEN OVA:
### ECOLE DE PARIS

This new OVA series focuses on the women of the Paris Kagekidan and their lives before it formed. Chock-full of back story and important character development, this OVA will not fail to please hardcore *Sakura Taisen* fans. (FUNimation, DVD, $9.99)

### SAMURAI DEEPER KYO VOL. 4

"Demon Eyes" Kyo continues to slice a bloody path across Japan. A veritable cornucopia of new demons crawl out of the woodwork, all looking to slay the spirit of super-samurai Kyo. (Media Blasters, DVD, $29.98)

### TINY SNOW FAIRY SUGAR VOL. 5

Break out the toothbrush and the insulin shots! Sugar and her fairy pals learn about the human world and cope with life, love and friendship. (Pioneer, DVD, $29.98)

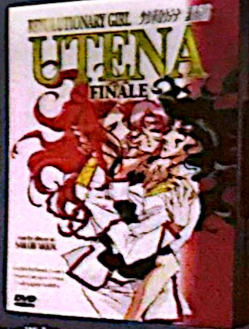
### YU YU HAKUSHO VOL. 19

The Dark Tournament finally comes to a brutal and bloody finale as Yusuke finally gets his match with the Toguro brothers. But even if he wins, will it be enough to save the human world? (FUNimation, DVD, $24.98)

## HOT PICK

### REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA VOL. 10: FINALE

November 11th on DVD, $29.98, Central Park Media



The *Revolutionary Girl Utena* saga comes to an explosive end. Anime auteur Kunihiko Ikuhara pulls out all the stops for this thrilling finale, which sees a desperate and determined Utena breaking into the Castle where Eternity dwells and fighting it out with Akio for the hand of the Rose Bride. Unfortunately, there's a lot of crazy stuff happening inside that castle, like a horde of 1,000 swords, forged by hatred and designed to guard the Rose Bride from any who attempt to save her from endless isolation, and some of the toughest duelists Utena's ever had to fight. Of course, it's all on Utena's shoulders; if she can't reach the Rose Bride, all is lost and her true love Anthy will be trapped forever. While some of your questions may go unanswered, the dark secrets behind Ohtori Academy are dumped out like yesterday's bagels. The disc is packed with extras, including art galleries, interviews with voice actors, a commentary track, the Ohtori Academy Yearbook, and tons more. If you've been watching the show, get ready for a tear-jerking, hankie-grabbing, head-scratching finale to end all finales. ■ ZB

# THE ANIME OVERLORD

## TOONAMI'S SEAN AKINS RULES ALL

As Creative Director of Toonami Sean Akins has evolved into the mastermind behind all the anime on Cartoon Network, and hence the most-watched Japanese animation in America. Don't doubt his power; he's the reason *FLCL* got air-time. After interviewing him way back in *A.I.* #1, we thought we'd check in.

AI: Which was more important, airing *FLCL*, or co-creating *IGPX*?

Sean Akins: (*massive groaning*) Oh man...Humans don't understand how cool *FLCL* is yet. It's the coolest thing ever. It's the finest animated work of all time.

But as the first original Toonami co-production, *IGPX* has to be more important. It's a huge step for us. It was truly an honor and a privilege to work on it.

So what's next for you and Toonami?

We hope to do a whole show. Maybe more *IGPX*. Maybe a new series altogether.

Why show what you show? Why all the *DBZ*?

Because it still gets big, whopping ratings. People fail to realize this is a business. It comes down to raw numbers. At the end of the day, I have to deliver an audience to the advertisers.

But that's why Toonami is a programming block. I can stack a couple shows around it that might not be airable otherwise by themselves—your *Outlaw Stars*, your *Gundam Wings*.

What are the chances of a shôjo anime block?

It's so tough. There are a lot of female anime fans and we love them. But to compare them to the mass female audience, it's a drop in the bucket. If you look at the data, most girls aren't into animation. The key is airing shows that are not so closed to girls.

What's your favorite anime that you can't air?

The *Ninja Scroll* movie. But that may not be out of the question.

Whazzat? You're going to show anime movies?

Right now we're just not set up for it. We definitely need to find a way, I think. It's definitely something I'm working for.

Where is the Toonami Channel?

That's a question I've asked myself. They have one in England. So it's not beyond the realm of possibility.

What's changed since Toonami started in 1996?

The difference now is we're out there. We can do co-productions, we're working with anime studios, with creators...it's been an awesome journey. But the goal is still the same. We still want to make afternoons cool.

Will you admit you're a shadowy overlord?

(*laughs*) No! No! Tell your readers I'm just a guy. I'm a cog in a giant machine. But I'm the closest representative to the anime fans they have in here. ■ Robert Bricken

MIRACLE WORKER They said it couldn't be done, but Sean Akins put *FLCL* on the air.

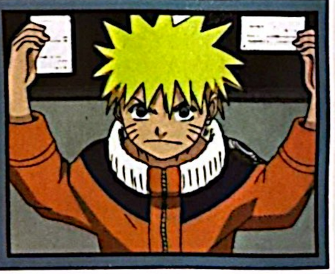
TOONAMI'S TOM

# TUNE IN TOKYO

## CHECK OUT THE LATEST ANIME THAT'S ONLY ON THE AIR IN JAPAN

### NARUTO

With 50 episodes and counting, *Naruto* is one of the most popular shows in Japan. Based on the manga by Masashi Kishimoto, it follows the prankster Naruto as he tries to become the best ninja in his village. There's only one problem: Naruto is one of the worst ninjas at his school! Plus, he is the reincarnation of a huge, nine-tailed fox spirit [illegible] terrorized his village, so everyone [illegible] him! Okay, that's two problems. Luck[illegible] Naruto, he's teamed up with two students: the cold, powerful Sasuke and Naruto's crush, the intelligent Sakura. With the über-powerful Kakashi as their eccentric teacher, there's nothing that'll keep Naruto from his dreams...except a few deadly ninjas and a large group of their peers who'd like to keep these three from passing the ninja exams. While you wait for the anime, be sure to check the manga, published monthly in *Shonen Jump*. ■ Rebecca Bundy



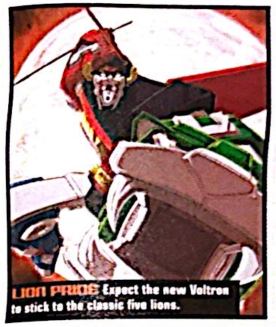
# HEAR HIM ROAR

## VOLTRON FORMS FOR A FOURTH TV OUTING

It's been nearly 20 years since five mechanical lions first formed *Voltron: Guardian of the Universe*. Now, the classic giant robot series is ready to roar back onto TV screens for a fourth series.

World Event Productions has announced that a new series, tentatively titled *Voltron: Interactive*, has entered production. "We are tremendously excited to have *Voltron: Defender of the Universe* as part of our portfolio of animation products," says Tiffany Ilardi, managing director of World Events Productions. "During the show's history, *Voltron* has benefited from its universal appeal and has become a classic brand with a huge fan base in the U.S. and abroad. Nostalgic fans are eager for a new *Voltron* series to be produced".

Planned for next year to coincide with *Voltron's* 20th anniversary, WEP promises that the fourth installment will stay true to the classical style seen in the original, while giving it a new edge that will interest old and new fans alike! ■ Rebecca Bundy


LION PRIDE Expect the new Voltron to stick to the classic five lions.

# A BANNER DAY

## TECH TV GRABS 'CREST OF THE STARS' SEQUEL

Tech TV is reaching to the stars. Or back to them, since they've announced that they're airing the sequel to their previous hit *Crest of the Stars*, beginning November 4th.

*Crest's* popularity was key to bringing *Banner* to Tech TV, says Laura [illegible]ello, director of acquisitions and commission. "Anime Unleashed has been successful both in terms of ratings and attracting new viewers to the network because of series like *Crest of the Stars*.

Licensed by Bandai Entertainment, *Banner of the Stars* continues the saga of Supply Officer Jinto and alien princess Lafiel, as their starship gets thrust in the middle of an interstellar war. A sci-fi adventure in the vein of *Star Trek*, the series is based on a series of novels by Hiroyuki Morioka.

*Banner of the Stars* will kick off the Anime Unleashed block Tuesdays at 1:00 a.m. ■ Robert Bricken

BANNER OF THE STARS

# ON THE AIR

## WHAT TO WATCH & WHERE

### ABC FAMILY

Join Akira and his battle unit Daigunder as they compete to become the battle robot federation champions!

*Beyblade*: Weekdays 7:30 a.m.; Sat. & Sun. 7:30 & 9:00 a.m.
*Daigunder*: Sat. & Sun. 9:30 a.m.
*Digimon*: Weekdays 7:00 a.m.; Sat. & Sun. 7:00 & 10:00 a.m.
*Medabots*: Sat. & Sun. 10:30 a.m.

DIGIMON

### CARTOON NETWORK

TRIGUN

Classic *Zoids*: Weekdays, 6.a.m.
*Hamtaro*: Sundays at 3 p.m.
*Pokémon*: Weekdays, 7 a.m.; Mon.-Thu., 9 p.m.
Yu-Gi-Oh!: Mon-Thu, 10 p.m.
Toonami: Weekdays, it's SD Gundam at 5 p.m. and new *Dragon Ball* episodes at 6:30, Mon-Thu.
Adult Swim: Starting at midnight Mon.-Thu., it's new episodes of *Inu-Yasha*, followed by *Blue Gender*, *Trigun*, and the return of *Cowboy Bebop*. Then it repeats again at 3 a.m. Sundays—check out *Trigun* and *Bebop* after the comedy at 1 a.m., repeated at 4.a.m.
Super Saturday: *Knights of the Zodiac* at 7 p.m., *Yu-Gi-Oh!* at 7:30, the new *Zoids Fuzors* at 8 p.m., *Rurouni Kenshin* at 11 p.m., DBZ at 11:30, and *.hack//SIGN* at midnight, followed by *Yu Yu Hakusho*.

### FOX BOX

All times are for Saturday mornings.
*Kirby: Right Back At Ya!*: 9:00 a.m.
*Shaman King*: 10:00 a.m.
*Sonic X*: 9:30 a.m.
*Ultimate Muscle*: 8:30 a.m.

TENCHI MUYO!

### INTERNATIONAL CHANNEL

Everybody needs Tenchi! He's back in English twice a week!
*Dragon Ball GT*: Saturdays at 10:30 p.m.
*El Hazard*: Wednesdays at 11 p.m.
*Fushigi Yugi*: Tuesdays at 11 p.m.
*Lost Universe*: Mondays at 11 p.m.
*Tenchi Muyo!*: Fridays at 11 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 p.m.

### KIDS WB!

*Pokémon*: Sat. 9:00 a.m.
*Yu-Gi-Oh!*: Sat. 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.

SOULTAKER

### TECH TV

*Banner of the Stars* takes over Tuesdays at 1 a.m.
*Boogiepop Phantom*: Mon.-Fri. at 1 a.m.
*Gatekeepers 21*: Mon.-Fri. at 1:30 a.m.
*Silent Mobius*: Sundays at 1:30 a.m.
*Soultaker*: Sundays at 2 and 2:30 a.m.

### OTHERS

These stations show anime irregularly; check their Web sites for up-to-date info.
*Anime Network*: www.theanimechannel.com.
*Action Movie Channel* has added *Hellsing* to its nightlife. www.actionmoviechannel.com.
*Showtime Beyond*: www.sho.com/beyond. ■ RB & RB

# DOUBLE THE FUN

## CPM AND TOKYOPOP GET THE 'COMIC PARTY' STARTED

Want to be a manga-ka but not exactly sure how to make that dream a reality? Both CPM Manga and TOKYOPOP are releasing a new series that might help you fulfill your dreams.

*Comic Party* features a candid scene where young hopefuls can become comics-creating stars, and a comical look inside the doujinshi (fan-made comic).

The title has been happily divvied up between CPM and TOKYOPOP; TOKYOPOP has the version created by Sekihiko Inui and Studio Ozzfest was originally released by Mediaworks; CPM has the anthology series that features a mix of creators, released by the Twin Hearts Comic Imprint. Both manga will be collected into volumes in the authentic right-to-left format, CPM's set tentatively for May 2004 and TOKYOPOP's in June 2004.

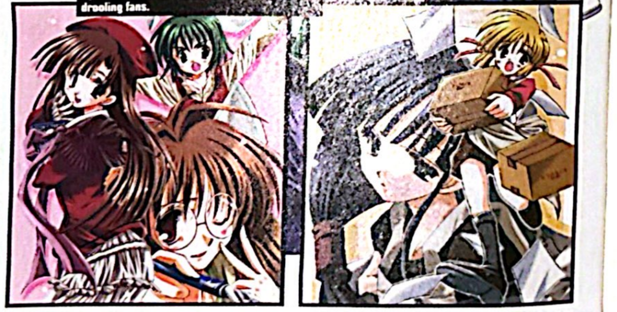
Based on a hit Japanese videogame, the cast includes six gals and two guys who are trying to become the best manga artists in Japan.

The series has become a fan-favorite in Japan, especially since readers get to learn about what it's really like to be a manga-ka. Here's the top ten things we learned by looking through *Comic Party*.

10. More women make comics than guys.
9. Too much stress can cause bald spots.
8. Manga-ka have no social lives.
7. Or love lives, for that matter.
6. Friends will model for you for free!
5. Fan art sells better than original art.
4. And fan art of guys together sells better than fan art of girls together.
3. More people buy stuff if you cosplay.
2. Editors yell very, very loudly.

And finally...

1. As weird as you think you might be for being a manga artist, you're not as weird as that crazy fan of yours who keeps sending you naked pictures of your own characters. ■ Jennifer M. Contino



**'PARTY' GIRLS** The girls of *Comic Party* (clockwise from top: Mizuki, Minami, Chisa, Aya, Yuu, Eimi and Subaru) battle deadlines and drooling fans.

## QUICK READS

### PAGE TURNIN' NEWS CLIPS

**MANGA FOR MEDIA BLASTERS** Media Blasters became the latest of the anime distribution companies to announce their foray into the world of manga publishing. They haven't announced any titles as of yet, but they have said they would look for the manga of anime titles they already have licensed, such as the much-anticipated *Knight Hunters*.

**DEL REY GETS CLAMPS** Book publishing giant Del Rey announced the final two titles that will round out their rookie year line-up: .*Tsubasa RESERVoir CHRoNiCLE*, a new story using characters from *CardCaptor Sakura*, and *XXXholic*, both by CLAMP. All of the Del Rey titles are slated to debut in May 2004.

**HAPPILY 'EVA' AFTER** If you can't get enough of the manga *Neon Genesis Evagelion*, Gainax is giving up more. A shojo manga, based on the video game called *Tenku no Girlfriend* (a. k. a. *Girlfriend of Steel*) just started running in Japan. An ADV spokesperson says they haven't yet announced a release date for the States. ■ Trisha L. Sebastian

NEON GENESIS EVANGELION

# WITH THIS 'RING'

## DARK HORSE TO RELEASE ENTIRE SPOOKY SAGA

While many movie fans know that Dreamworks SKG's hit horror film *The Ring* was based on a Japanese film, much fewer realize that movie was based on a trilogy of Japanese novels by scribe Suzuki Koji. Those same fans can now learn more about the novel and movie series thanks to Dark Horse, who will be bringing over all of *The Ring* manga.

"There's a reason it's an international phenomena," enthused Dark Horse senior editor Tim Ervin-Gore. "*The Ring* is a series of very scary stories told by a master storyteller. It creeps me out working on it!"

The story of a killer virus transmitted by videotape, a feature of the manga is that it features the writing talents of original novelist Koji and original screenplay writer Hiroshi Takahashi. The result is a manga that's true to the novels, but features the best parts of the original movies as well.

The first volume of the manga movie adaptation will be released on November 12. Dark Horse will be bringing over the rest of the series as individual volumes, digest-size and reads right-to-left.

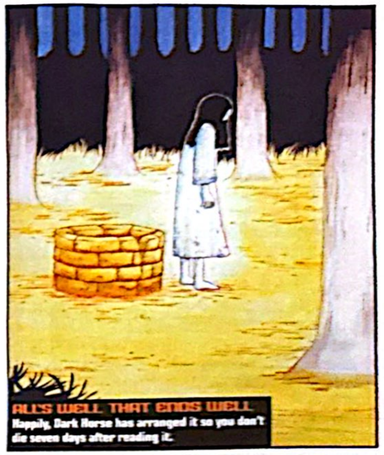
If you can't wait to learn about the rest of *The Ring*, check out our handy guide to the series.

***RING***—The time is now, and rumors and innuendo about a cursed videotape are spreading. Meanwhile, a reporter stumbles across young Sadako (Samara in the remake) and learns of her terrible secret.

***RING*** [illegible]—This sequel to the original furthers Sadako's story and offers more shocking details about her past and the horrific ring virus as well as a plot twist.

***RING: SPIRAL***—Truest to the novel, it details more about the genesis of the cursed videotape and the biological and medical background of the ring virus.

***RING: BIRTHDAY***—Three short stories—"Floating Coffin", "Lemonheart", and "Sadako"—make up this volume. Each story is told from the point of view of a different character, but in the end, all tie in to Sadako and her future. ■ JC



**ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL** Happily, Dark Horse has arranged it so you don't die seven days after reading it.

# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

## EXCEL SAGA: THE MANGA VS. THE ANIME

Excel, Hyatt, and Ilpalazzo, hapless and insane members of ACROSS, are out to conquer the world—starting with just one city. ADV released the anime and Viz is releasing the manga, so fans can savor both decidedly different versions of *Excel Saga*. They might have all the insane jokes, gags, and huge shoulder pads you can handle, but they're not the same by any means!

**ONE AT A TIME PLEASE**
Regardless of which robot is your favorite, having both Ropponmatsus—older teen or little girl—around in the anime is a good thing. Unfortunately, the two of them are never seen together in the manga.

**MARTIAN MAYHEM**
In the anime, Hyatt is a Martian, but in the manga, her background is still a mystery! This doesn't change the fact that she frequently coughs up blood and dies, however.

**AFRO-LICIOUS**
The afro-endowed Nabeshin was a huge hit with the fans, but since he's a parody of anime director Shinichi Watanabe he's not in the manga. Come back, Nabeshin!

**CUTE, CUDDLY, AND EVIL**
Whether they're chasing Excel with a futon-beater or spoofing *Aliens* and Leiji Matsumoto anime, the insidiously cute Puchuus are all over the anime. Those who can only handle so much cute per day should choose the manga, which is 100% Puchuu-free.

**A PLOT TO THINK ABOUT**
Conquering the supposedly-important F City is the basis of both the manga and the anime, but the anime takes the plot in a totally different direction with the introduction of That Man and a glimpse at Ilpalazzo's dark side.

**NOOOOO!**
After all the lousy things that happen to him in the anime, what else could befall poor Pedro? His career could abruptly end as he fails to land a role in the manga, that's what. Some guys just can't get a break, huh? ■ David Kapp

# COMING COMICS

## MANGA TO WATCH FOR THIS NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER!

## NOVEMBER

### A. I. REVOLUTION VOL. 1

When Midori's dad creates a robot that looks and learns like a human, can Midori teach it how to be one? You Asami (IC Entertainment, $9.99)

### AQUARIUM

When Naoka doesn't get into the school of her choice, she loses her will to live. Can visits to the Aquarium reinvigorate the teen? Tomoko Taniguchi (CPM Manga, $9.99)

### AZUMANGA DAIOH VOL. 2

More high school antics as Chiyo and her pals go from being sophomores to juniors. Kiyohiko Azuma (ADV, $9.99)

### BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL #84

Assassins are on Rin's trail, but she's made an alliance with, the man who murdered her parents. Hiroaki Samura (Dark Horse, $2.99)

### BOYS OVER FLOWERS VOL. 3

More romance is blooming as Shizuka reveals her future plans. Yoko Kamio (Viz, $9.95)

### CYBORG 009 VOL. 2

009 finally meets his nemesis Black Ghost, but the battle between them causes mass destruction. Can 009 and his friends escape unscathed? Ishinomori Shoutarou (TOKYOPOP, $9.99)

### DARK ANGEL VOL. 1

Dark is the next in line to be protector of his country, but to assume the role means conquering not just evil, but his own self-doubts. Kia Asamiya (CPM Manga, $9.99)

### DUKLYON: CLAMP SCHOOL DEFENDERS VOL. 2

As some of the defenders' friends falter between good and evil, Erii has to use the power of love to help Sukiyabashi overcome the darkness. CLAMP (TOKYOPOP, $9.99)

### FIREFIGHTER DIAGO OF FIRE COMPANY M VOL.5

Diago has more lessons to learn before he can be considered a true firefighter, but he's eager to be the ultimate rookie. Masahito Soda (Viz, $9.95)

### FULL METAL PANIC VOL. 2

When their plane is hijacked, a group of high school students must do whatever it takes to save the day. Shouji Gatou (ADV, $9.99)

### GHOST IN THE SHELL II: MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE #10

The cyber mystery intensifies as Aramaki goes up against powerful avatars in virtual reality. Masamune Shirow (Dark Horse, $3.50)

## HOT PICK

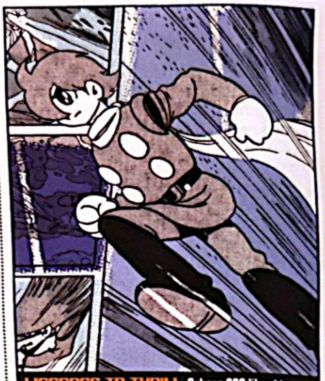
### Di Gi CHARAT THEATER VOL. 1: DEJIKO'S SUMMER VACATION

By Koge-Donbo and others (Broccoli Books, $9.99)

BROCCOLI BOOKS
Di Gi Charat
THEATER
by Koge-Donbo and others
Dejiko's Summer Vacation

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT** It's about the cutest, most egotistical aliens you've seen. Dejiko, a.k.a. Di Gi Charat, travels to Earth to be a pop star...but forgets about needing a place to stay. Along with her friends Puchiko (Petit Charat) and Gema (an obnoxious yellow ball), she reluctantly takes a job at room at an anime store called Gamers. Now she's busy ignoring the customers in her quest to be an idol, as well as fighting off her idol rival Rabi~en~Rose, the nefarious alien gang Black Gema Gang, and trying to get everything her way.

**WHY IT'S COOL** There are very few manga as truly unique as *Di Gi Charat*. While creator Koge Donbo has created some of the cutest characters in existence, don't be fooled—*Charat* is one of the most hysterical comics ever created. These adorable little aliens are so selfish, self-absorbed and mean-spirited that random violence is the name of the day, whether it's to each other or just their unsuspecting customers. The mix of mean and cute makes *Di Gi Charat* a fantastically good time. This special collection includes feature stories from some of Japan's most respected artists, including Galaxy Angel character designer Kanan and Koge Donbo herself. Check out the adorable mayhem this November. ■ Robert Bricken



LISCENSE TO THRILL Cyborg 009 likes his martinis served with a quart of oil.

### GTO VOL. 15

Onizuka receives a new Mercedes as a present from Mayu, but doesn't realize the car is stolen and there's a kidnapped girl in the trunk. Tohru Fujisawa (TOKYOPOP, $9.99)

### GUNDAM: THE ORIGIN VOL. 8

More explosive action between the Federation and Zeon's forces. Yoshikazu Yashiko (Viz, $7.95)

### GUNSLINGER GIRL

Henrietta was attacked and almost killed, but the Secret Service rebuilt her as a cyborg assassin. Hiroshi Aida (ADV, $9.99)

### KARE KANO VOL. 6

Summer's almost over and Arima returns. Ater so much time apart, will he still have feeling for Yukino? Masami Tsuda (TOKYOPOP, $9.99)

### LIFE OF BUDDHA VOL. 2

Young prince Siddartha flees the castle and enjoys a simpler life with Tatta and Migaila—will he ever return? Osamu Tezuka (Vertical, $24.95)

### LUPIN III VOL. 9

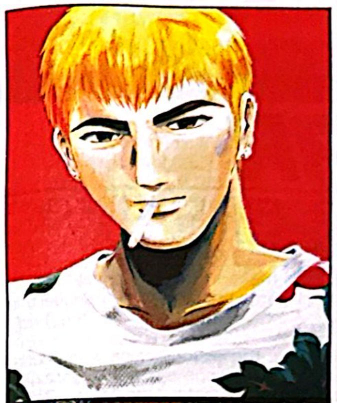
Lupin's paid to teach a kid how to be a thief, but discovers some lessons just can't be taught. Monkey Punch (TOKYOPOP, $9.99)

### MARS VOL. 15

While Rei recovers from Masao's attack, his father opens up to him. Fuyumi Soryo (TOKYOPOP, $9.99)

### RAIJIN COMICS #39

Anthology series featuring *Bow Wow Wata Nemuri Kyoshiro*, *City Hunter*, *The Climber's Saga*, *First President of Japan*, *Fist of the Blue Sky*, *Guardian Angel Getten Keiji*, *Revenge of the Mouflon*, and *Slam Dunk*. Various (Gutsoon! Entertainment, $5.95)



GREAT IMPRESSIONS Shortly after posing for this portrait, Eikichi Onizuka mooned the artist.

### RECORD OF LODOSS WAR: THE LADY OF PHARIS VOL. 1

The warriors of legend must restore light and order to Lodoss Island or tragedy will ensue. Ryo Mizuno, [illegible]hiro Yamada, (CPM Manga, $15.95)

### RED PROWLING DEVIL VOL. 6

White [illegible] is attacking, while Antonio's in danger [illegible] two Red Prowling Devils. Toshimitzu Sh[illegible] (Comicsone.com, $9.95)

### SUPER MANGA BLAST! #37

Anthology series featuring *3 X 3 Eyes*, *Hypernotes*, *Seraphic Feather*, *Shadow Star*, and *What's Michael?* Various (Dark Horse, $5.99)

### WEDDING PEACH VOL. 3

When the Sacred Four falls into the wrong hands, what will that mean for Wedding Peach? Sukehiro Tomita and Nao Yazawa (Viz, $9.95)

### YU-GI-OH VOL. 3

With his friends' lives in the balance, Yugi must overcome Shadi's illusions. Kazuki Takahashi (Viz, $7.95)

### YUI KANONSHO VOL. 1

Will a church shelter Vampire Yui when she arrives there injured? Narumi Kakinouchi (IC Entertainment, $12.95)

## DECEMBER

### ASTRO BOY VOL. 22

A set of *Astro Boy* short stories involving time machines, love, bombs, brain switching...and the end of Astro?! Osamu Tezuka (Dark Horse, $9.95)

### CRAYON SHINCHAN VOL. 7

Shinchan takes his first plane ride; the friendly skies will never be the same again. Yoshito Usui (Comicsone.com, $9.95)

### DRAGON BALL Z VOL. 14

The evil androids have been activated, a new baddie is on the way and Goku's down with a virus! Can Vegeta save the day? Akira Toriyama (Viz, $7.95)

### EXCEL SAGA VOL. 4

Excel disguises herself as Hyatt, Ilpalazzo talks to the voices in his head and the dog Mince makes a break for it—just a typical day, really. Koshi Rikdo (Viz, 9.95)

### HELLSING VOL. 1

Hellsing is a secret organization in the U. K. that defends the realm from all threats—dead and alive. Kohta Hirano (Dark Horse, $13.95)

### NARUTO VOL. 2

The adventures of everyone's favorite kid ninja continue as Naruto begs for an assignment worthy of his skills, and gets more than he bargained for. Masashi Kishimoto (Viz, $7.95)

### RUROUNI KENSHIN VOL. 2

Romance and swordplay are in the works for the continuing adventures of feudal Japan's reluctant killer. Nobuhiro Watsuki (Viz, $7.95)

### STEEL ANGEL KURUMI VOL. 1

A kiss awakens a pretty girl, who's really a powerful robot who now thinks she has a new master. Kaisyaku (ADV, $9.99)

### THOSE WHO HUNT ELVES VOL. 1

Six elves have parts of a spell tattooed on their bodies and three interdimensional travelers will do anything to get them back. Yu Yagami (ADV, $9.99)

LIFE ON 'MARS' Rei would like to thank Bob Mackie for his wonderful outfit.

## GETTING TO KNOW

### KAZUO KOIKE

**MAJOR WORK:** *Lone Wolf and Cub*
**FAVORITE COLOR:** Black
**FAVORITE JUNK FOOD:** Monaka, a cake filled with sweet bean paste
**FAVORITE MANGA:** "The next one I will write!"

Kazuo Koike is the writer of one of the most epic manga series of all time, the multi-award winning series *Lone Wolf and Cub*. Recently, Koike recently wrote a story for the American comic *X-Men Unlimited*, and last summer, also opened a school to teach a whole new generation of manga-ka. His newest manga, *Spring Has Come*, features a retired samurai couple living out their golden years. Koike's not sure if this work will be translated for Western fans...but he has hopes.

X
MEN
UNLIMITED
MARVEL

LONE WOLF & CUB

**Have you always wanted to be a manga-ka since childhood?**
I don't think I wanted to become a manga author as a child. I wanted to become a doctor or lawyer. But now when I think of it, I think people have benefited from my works.

**What wouldn't you do for one million dollars?**
I would never sell my work to the devil even if he would pay one million dollars.

**What really makes you angry?**
A person who would double-cross anyone makes me sick.

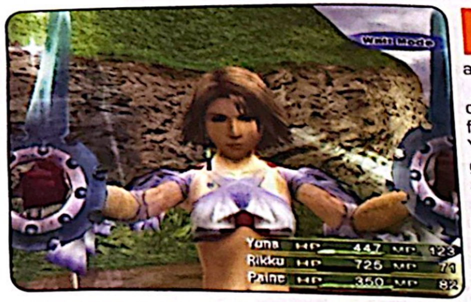
TIGER WOODS

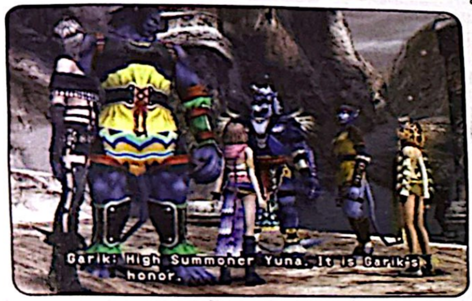
**If you could be anyone else in the world for a day, who would you want to be?**
The Pro Golf World Champion.

**What was your favorite childhood toy?**
As a kid, I used to play a card game called "Menko" which is an ancestor of modern day Trump. ■ JC

# 'FANTASY' STAR

## YUNA'S BACK, AND SHE'S PACKING MORE THAN GUNS IN 'FFX-2'





Now the title *really* doesn't make sense. The Final Fantasy series gets its least "final" game and its first ever sequel this December when *Final Fantasy X-2* (that's "FF Ten Two") arrives on PS2.

Returning to the world of Spira, the action begins when Yuna, demure summoner from the original, finds a Sphere containing footage of what might be her lost love and hero of the original, Tidus. Yuna does what any good girlfriend would do—packs up two huge guns, puts on short shorts, joins up with two hot chicks and goes out to rescue her man.

Publisher Square Enix has revamped the patented RPG action with Active Time Battles, meaning enemies won't wait for your decision and the battles stay brisk. Wandering around Spira is now more dangerous, as Yuna and crew have to run, jump and climb to further explore the world.

Additionally, a mission-based template replaces the previous linear, story-driven design of the series. "The mission-based system allows players to play at their own pace, yet also represents Yuna's 'new' personality—she's a more open and free-spirited person," describes producer of *Final Fantasy* Yoshinori Kitase.

Since Tidus and Yuna helped release the Aeons in *FFX*, she lost her summoning powers and has to rely on her new guns, as well as returning thief Rikku and new character and Joan Jett-lookalike Paine (that's her in black at far left). In another new direction for the series, these three are the only playable characters, but their class can be changed by the Dress Sphere system, which lets the crew change their abilities—and their outfits in stunning 3D animation.Dresses include Gunner, White Mage, Pop Star (they even bust out Xtina moves during combat!) and more.

While you may think the tone of an all-girl cast and pop music soundtrack is a departure for the Final Fantasy brand, Square Enix promises a great story behind the luscious trappings. When was the last time gamers complained about too many hot girls, anyway? ■ Jon M. Gibson

**SKIN'S IN** Since she helped destroy the evil Sin in *FFX*, Yuna figures she can dress however she wants.

## BITS OF BYTES

THE LATEST WORD ON GAMING

***HIGH-SPEED ANIME*** Following in the footsteps of Kirby and Mario, Nintendo's *F-Zero: Falcon Tradition*, based on the long-running future-racing franchise, debuted on Japanese TV on October 7. Set in 2201 A.D., the show's high-speed antics revolve around the game's lead highwayman, Captain Falcon, and his arch nemesis Samurai Goroh.

***METAL GEAR SAMURAI?*** Japanese publisher Genki recently showed off character designs for its upcoming samurai action romp, *Shinsen Gumi*, drawn by *Metal Gear Solid* artist Yoji Shinkawa. The title refers to a band of sword-wielders who protect innocent folks from the blades of assassins. Sorry, no Snake cameo.

***ROBOTECH RALLY*** While *Macross* saga-loving *Robotech* fans got their thrills for TDK Mediactive fun *Robotech: Battlecry* game, everyone else has been left out. But TDK has announced *Robotech: Invasion*, due late 2004, set in the New Generation era. Ride your own Cyclone in the Invid-invested first-person shooter. ■ JG

ROBOTECH: INVASION

# RETURN OF THE DRAGON

## 'DBZ: BUDOKAI 2' HITS THE PS2—HARD

Last year's *Dragon Ball Z: Budokai* answered the many prayers of fans for a modern *DBZ* videogame. But *DBZ: Budokai 2*, due this December from Atari for PS2, is like a wish answered by the Dragon Balls themselves.

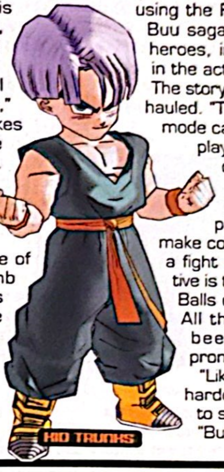
*Budokai 2* ups the visual ante with "Toriyama-shading," a visual application that makes the game look just like the anime instead of a videogame. The fighting engine has been tweaked to more easily perform signature character attacks, and players can even control the size of Goku's patented Spirit Bomb move. *Budokai 2* also adds more detailed, destructible environments to fight in and toss your opponent through.

And there's plenty of opponents to choose from. Packing [illegible]4 fighters from the show, including new additions like Android 20, Kid Trunks, Goten, older Teen Gohan, Videl, Supreme Kai, Dabura, Majin Buu, Super Buu, and Kid Buu. But using the Fusion technique from the Buu saga, players can create new heroes, including some never-seen in the actual anime.

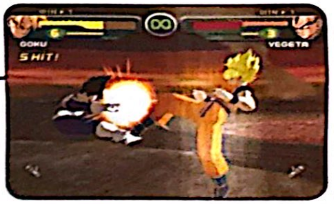
The story option has also been overhauled. "There's a more open-ended mode called 'Dragon World,' which plays out like a board game," describes Christopher Lundeen, Atari associate producer. "When the player's character pieces make contact with the computer's, a fight ensues. The overall objective is to collect the seven Dragon Balls over nine different maps."

All these improvements have been made for the fans, promises Lundeen.

"Like any series out there with hardcore fans, it is very difficult to satisfy them," says Lundeen. "But we can come close." ■ JG



KID TRUNKS



# TO IMPORT OR NOT TO IMPORT?

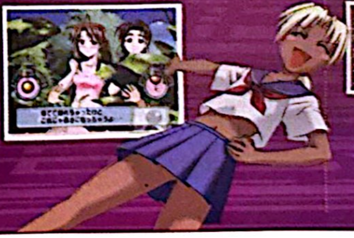
## BRING IT!

### LOVE HINA GORGEOUS (PS2)

DIGITAL EYE-CANDY

**HOW TO PLAY:** Finally, you get a chance to live a day in the life of Keitaro Urashima. He has to study hard for the next two weeks, or else he'll have to relocate to Paris, but as usual, there's plenty of distractions and disasters to keep him from his task. Use the analog sticks to complete the mini-events, or face the wrath of all your favorite *Love Hina* girls, fully animated and voice-acted!

**ANALYSIS:** There are plenty of other *Love Hina* games, but none of them have been translated into languages other than Japanese, so it's unlikely this one will be either. While *Gorgeous* still has that dating-sim feel, the animated and voiced characters, as well as the 3D rendered characters and environments, help this one break the mold.



## KEEP IT!

### YAKINIKU BUGYOU BONFIRE!

DIGITAL FOOD POISONING

**HOW TO PLAY:** In the far-off land of Japan, people eat. Wait, they eat in America, too, but apparently it's just a lot more hectic in Tokyo town. This really bizarre puzzle game requires you to cook servings of meat, vegetables, and other indiscernible concoctions on a grill—but not too much or too little, or the customers might get salmonella. Seriously, we're not kidding.

**ANALYSIS:** There's nothing mouth watering about this game, from its icky-looking hunks of burnt steak to trying to please the restaurant's hideous patrons. *Bonfire!* replicates all of the work and drudgery of restaurant cooking with none of the benefits. Want a tip? Leave this one overseas and stick to ramen noodles.

# RELEASE SCHEDULE

WE PICK 'EM, YOU PLAY 'EM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING SOON...

## NOVEMBER

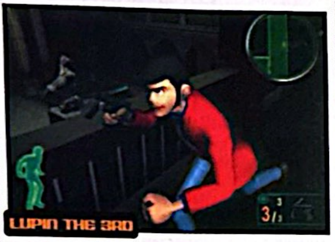
**BEYBLADE: V-FORCE** Based on the animated series, *Beyblade* finally lets kids realize their dream: to build and battle their very own spinning tops. With a deep customization mode and the characters from the show to face off against, it's a solid package for those searching for the ultimate blade jam. **(Atari, GBA)**

**DYNASTY WARRIORS 4: XTREME LEGENDS** Overflowing with all the characters from *Dynasty Warriors 4*, this "Xtreme" edition lives up to its namesake: new stages, new items, and even the 11th weapon level is unlockable for the first time. The Legends mode is pretty slick, too, letting you live out the quests of each feudal combatant. **(KOEI, PS2)**

**-NINJA** Your head may be the same size as your ody, but that won't prevent you from running on ralls, tossing throwing stars, blowing a blow un and slicing your enemy into distinct halves n this awesome action-platformer. **(Namco, PS2)**

**KARAOKE REVOLUTION** Forget about embarrassing yourself at *Dance Dance Revolution*; this incredibly fun karaoke spin-off of the franchise requires you to sing in-time and in-tune to please your virtual audience. From soulful Aretha Franklin to disco-remixed Cher tracks—it's an irresistible sing-a-long party game. **(Konami, PS2)**

**KING OF FIGHTERS: 2000 & 2001** After several years in limbo, these classic brawlers are finally making their way stateside. Two new modes—Party, forcing you to fight with limited power; and Memory, featuring intros from past *KoF* games—are also included in this fanboy-fueled release. **(SNK, PS2)**



LUPIN THE 3RD

**LUPIN THE 3RD: MAGIC IN THAILAND** Lupin is headed to Asia for one of his biggest heists yet. With Inspector Zenigata close behind, the whole gang will have to try their hardest to grab the loot and dash. Lupin will have to assume disguises, pick pockets and elude Fujiko. Did we mention it's in 3D? **(Bandai, PS2)**

**MARIO & LUIGI** An evil witch steals Princess Peach's voice and replaces her soft murmurs with—gasp—deadly explosions! Alas, it's up to Mario and Luigi, working together in unison, to save the lady's vocal cords before the Mushroom Kingdom goes up in flames. **(Nintendo, GBA)**

**MARIO PARTY 5** It wouldn't be a holiday without another eerily addictive, interactive board game *Mario Party*. A brand new selection of minigames have been installed, as well as a handful of themed stages. Oh yeah, some secret characters are making their debut as well. Shhhhh...**(Nintendo, GameCube)**

**NINJA GAIDEN** It's been a while since we last witnessed Ryu Hayabusa slicing and dicing, but Tecmo is finally pulling the coolest ninja in town out of retirement. Developed by *Dead or Alive* programmers Team Ninja, it's a graphically intense feast of ninja action and violence. **(Tecmo, Xbox)**

**ONIMUSHA TACTICS** Capcom brings their survival horror franchise into that same turn-based template. Set in feudal Japan, you'll take command of Onimaru, a young Ogre Clan warrior, to crush the demonic Genma hordes plaguing the countryside. **(Capcom, GBA)**

ONIMARU

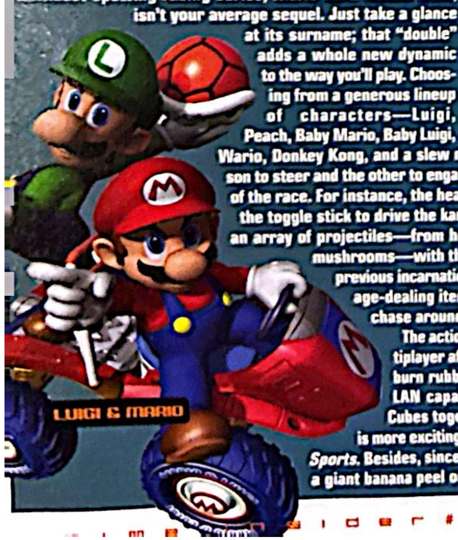
**SPACE CHANNEL 5: SPECIAL EDITION** Finally! Only a few folks bought the DreamCast wonder *Space Channel 5*, which was a darned shame. Now Agetec is bringing out a new special edition of the original, along with the never-before-released sequel! This brilliantly cool game has you dance and shoot in Simon-Says rhythm to rescue innocent Earthlings and aliens from a funky intergalactic menace. **(Agetec, PS2)**

**VIRTUAL ON MARZ** The *Virtual On* series has always meant fantastic arcade-y robot fighting fun. But *Marz* adds a new mode that imposes longer-winded missions, like destroying a band of hover trains before they reach their destination. The PS2 Dualshock controller perfectly replicates the unique arcade controls. **(SEGA, PS2)**

## HOT PICK

### MARIO KART: DOUBLE DASH

Due in November from Capcom on Nintendo on GameCube



LUIGI & MARIO

**Buckle up, grease monkeys!** Nintendo's latest update of the exhaust-spewing racing series, *Mario Kart: Double Dash*, isn't your average sequel. Just take a glance at its surname; that "double" adds a whole new dynamic to the way you'll play. Choosing from a generous lineup of characters—Luigi, Peach, Baby Mario, Baby Luigi, Wario, Donkey Kong, and a slew more—you'll need to assign one person to steer and the other to engage in the grittier, *Ben Hur*-like portions of the race. For instance, the heavy-footed Mario can be controlled via the toggle stick to drive the kart, and the back-seated Luigi will toss an array of projectiles—from heat-seeking turtle shells to shrinking mushrooms—with the touch of a button. Better yet, unlike previous incarnations, each character has exclusive damage-dealing items, further enhancing the high-speed chase around the Mushroom Kingdom.

The action is designed to be extra fun as a multiplayer affair, as friends are able to pair up and burn rubber. With the *Double Dash*'s 16-player LAN capabilities (i.e. networking four GameCubes together on four TVs), the in-game action is more exciting than watching a NASCAR pileup on *Fox Sports*. Besides, since when has Dale Earnhardt Jr. ever spit a giant banana peel out of his exhaust pipe? ■ JG

**YU-GI-OH!: THE FALSEBOUND KINGDOM** Being sold as a real-time strategy game, *Falsebound Kingdom* adheres closely to the show's plot while allowing for some interactivity beyond the card game rules. Employing three-on-three monster battles, players will wage war for control of the map. **(Konami, PS2)**

We should go win some cards, too.

YU-GI-OH! THE SACRED CARDS

**YU-GI-OH!: THE SACRED CARDS** *Sacred Cards* is a more traditional form of *Yu-Gi-Oh!* for purists not pleased with *Falsebound*. Returning players to Battle City you'll work your way up the ranks in order to secure the all-mighty Egyptian God cards. 100 duelists, 900 cards—phew, that's a lot! **(Kona[illegible] GBA)**

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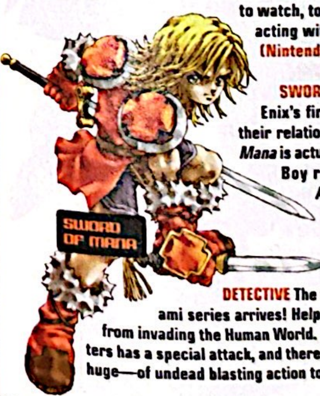
## DE[illegible]EMBER

**.HACK P[illegible] QUARANTINE** The final entry in the RPG epic. Bandai is promisin[illegible]e amazingly powerful skills and equipment—as well as tough-as-[illegible]ckload-of-nails baddies—for those who made the effort to finish [illegible]her three games. **(Bandai, PS2)**

**DANCE [illegible]EVOLUTION: XBOX** Xbox Live makes it worth your hard earned c[illegible]ew songs, characters, and dance steps will be downloadabl[illegible] this game hits store shelves, so it's like having a never-e[illegible]arty—if your feet are up to it. **(Konami, Xbox)**

**METAL S[illegible]** Another of SNK's grand reopening releases, this third update o[illegible]etal Slug* series is 2D action at its best. More weapons, more ve[illegible], and some of the coolest, old-school animation you'll ever see in a ga[illegible]. Both the original mode and "arcade mission" pack are included. **([illegible], PS2)**

**POKÉMO[illegible]ANNEL** The main goal of this release is to make Pikachu a happy camper. As the very first beta tester of the brand new Pokémon Channel, you'll be tuned into all things, well, Poké. Pikachu loves to watch, too, and that's your key to interacting with the cute, yellow sewer rat. **(Nintendo, GameCube)**



SWORD OF MANA

**SWORD OF MANA** As one of Square Enix's first GBA titles since rekindling their relationship with Nintendo, *Sword of Mana* is actually a remake of the 1990 Game Boy release entitled *Final Fantasy Adventures*. Pure old-school RPG bliss awaits players. **(Square Enix, GBA)**

**YU YU HAKUSHO: SPIRIT DETECTIVE** The first videogame for the hit Toonami series arrives! Help Yusuke and crew stop demons from invading the Human World. Each of the six playable characters has a special attack, and there's a full 24 levels—and they are huge—of undead blasting action to enjoy. **(Atari, GBA)**

# HOT TIPS

FOR THE BEST GAMERS ONLY

### CHAOS LEGION (PS2)

If you want to level the easy (but long) way, find a location where enemies respond at only two or three at a time. Set your strongest Legion to Attack Mode, and then go have a sandwich or two. The Legions will kill the monsters for you, earning double experience; the longer you wait the more you'll get. Keep checking your health, though!

### F-ZERO GX (GAMECUBE)

Tired of all those repetitive music tracks? To unlock a remixed "Big Blue" song, select "Customization" mode and enter the shop. Press Z, Left, Right, Left, Z, Y, X, Z, Left, Right, Left, Right, Z, X, Z, X, Z at the main menu screen. A noise will confirm you entered the code correctly, and the "Sounds of Big Blue" track will be available for purchase at the shop. Or you can just win all the cups on "Master" difficulty.

### SILENT HILL 3 (PS2)

Does someone feel a draft? To see Douglas in his tighty-whiteys, complete the game once, go to the "extra new game" option, and press Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, Circle, X.

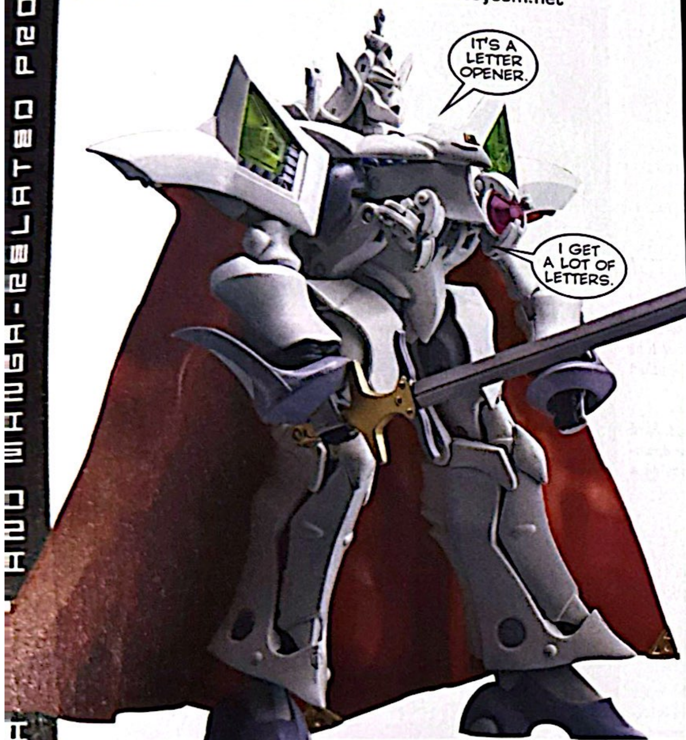
### SOUL CALIBUR 2 (PS2, XBOX, GAMECUBE)

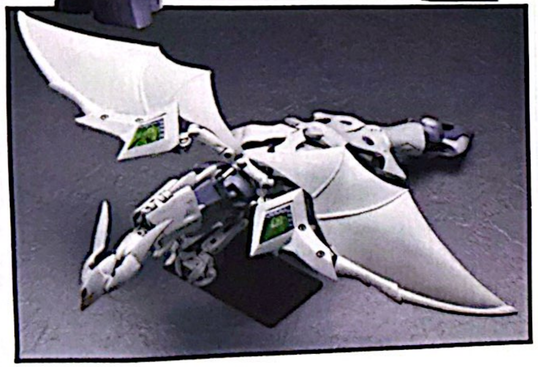
That voice sounds familiar, doesn't it? After unlocking the character's profile in the extra or arcade modes, go to your favorite fighter and select "Voice." By pressing L, a box will appear for only a few seconds, revealing what actor instilled the digital deviant with vocals. If you want to unlock those snazzy opening movies, play the Extra Time Attack and Extra Survival modes to get the Arcade and Home versions. ■ JG

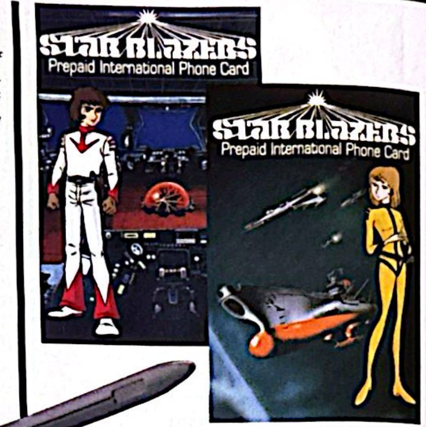
Scanned with CamScanner

## NO MORE MR. NICE GUYMELEF

Transforming dragon robot is the coolest combination of any three words ever, and now you can take one home! Direct from *Vision of Escaflowne*, Toycom's 8-inch tall Guymelef figure sports a massive 14-inch wingspan in its Dragon mode. Complete with 12 points of articulation, now you can recreate your favorite scenes or make new adventures for a reasonable $59.99. **www.toycom.net**





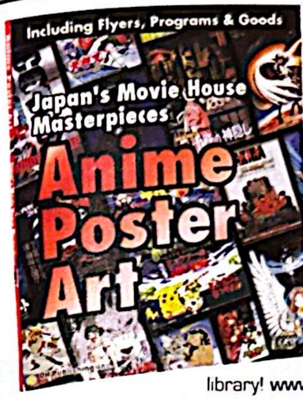

STAR BLAZERS
Prepaid International Phone Card
STAR BLAZERS
Prepaid International Phone Card

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Phone cards with anime characters on them are the norm in Japan—now America's got something to call home about! Featuring characters from the classic series *Starblazers*, $19.99 gets you 199 prepaid domestic minutes to call almost anywhere and listen to an exclusive message from Derek Wildstar or Nova! **www.starblazers.com**

## TOTALLY RADICAL

Just look at her. Her innocent smile, her wide eyes, her unruly red hair, her low price of $7.50. How can anyone resist taking home Great Eastern's adorable plushie of *Cowboy Bebop*'s Radical Edward and Ein the Data Dog? At 8" tall, this is one girl you'll be glad to jam with. **www.geanimation.com**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## WANTED POSTERS

We're all about the pretty pictures, so thank goodness for the new book *Anime Poster Art*. It's got brilliant anime film poster art, synopses, background notes and commentaries! Each of the great films featured helped change the anime industry, making this $19.95 book a beautiful—and useful—addition to your library! **www.dhp-online.com**

## PRETTY KITTY

She's taken over purses, plush dolls, stationery, and now the small screen—literally! When you turn the volume up on this Sanrio Hello Kitty TV set, Hello Kitty r[illegible] across the 13" screen. [illegible] it even comes with a remote control and peripheral jacks. **www.sanrio.com**

## READ OR BUY

Anyone [illegible] loves to read will want these t[illegible]velies from *Read or Die* gu[illegible] their bookshelves. Yomiko [illegible]dman, a.k.a. The Paper, [illegible] Nancy Makuhari, Miss Deep, [illegible] as 1/8th scale resin st[illegible] with bases and are rea[illegible] action! From Kotobukiya, for $85 apiece. **www.ar[illegible]kotobukiya.com**

PICK A CARD!
AND STRAIGHTEN MY SPINE!

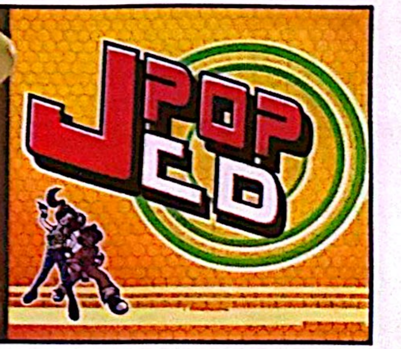
## HOT PICK

### DELIVER US THIS EVA

**The statement "too much of a good thing" never applies to *Neon Genesis Evangelion*! Medicom's latest Kubrick, distributed exclusively through Diamond, presents the EVA Unit-01 at 10" tall! Not only is it 400 times bigger than a regular Kubrick, it's also got jointed legs and arms, a removable helmet, a pallet gun and more, for an apocalyptically low $49.99! www.medicomtoy.co.jp**

## E. T. PLAY GAMES

Die-hard gamers know it's not enough to have a system that makes games visually incredible. Enter the Alienware Area-51 desktop system. It sports twin air-intake "alien eyes," four 3.0- GHz processors and a 120 GB hard drive, and has an alien-head power button whose eyes light up while it's processing. For an otherworldly $1500! **www.alienware.com**



## A BEAT YOU CAN'T BEAT

Tofu Records' new *Jpop CD* combines some of the best anime, gaming, and J-pop music out there onto one convenient $13.98 album! You can sing along to songs from *Gundam Seed*, *One Piece*, *Rurouni Kenshin* and more, thanks to phonetic lyric lists and liner notes found inside the album booklet! **www.tofurecords.com**

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### PRIME DIRECTIVE

Not only does he command the Autobots, but now Optimus Prime can command your shelf with the new Transformers Optimus Prime polystone statue from Palisades Toys! Crushing an Autobot emblem base beneath his massive 12"-tall bulk, the $150 Prime is beautifully painted with realistic cracks, dents and battle-worn paint! www.palisadestoys.com

PUT ON SOME CLOTHES! YOU HARLOTS!

### FANTASY STARS

The Final Fantasy videogames are usually gorgeous enough by themselves, but *FFX-2* takes the unprecedented step of starring only female leads and keeping their outfits tiny. If that wasn't joyous enough news, Kaiyodo has made articulated action figures of their barely clad likenesses, and Diamond is distributing them for a mere $14.99 each! Life...is *good.* www.kaiyodo.co.jp

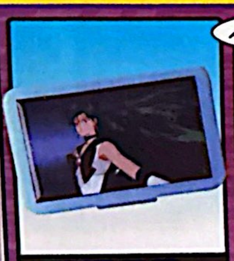
### TURTLE CLEANING POWER

To tell the truth, we'd buy these just because they're so darned cute, but it turns out they're functional, too! Both Gamera and his foe Gyaos are roughly 5" tall, cost $9.99 and dispense hand soap—perfect for washing your hands after destroying Tokyo.

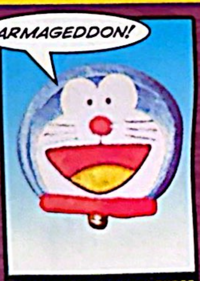
## "SOLD" ONLINE

**SOME OF THE CRAZY CRAP PEOPLE ARE SELLING ON THE 'NET**

***[illegible] NO GO* MIRROR COMPACT AND LINT BRUSH**
[illegible] Go players on the...er...go. $8



**SAILOR PLUTO PILL BOX**
At least the pills aren't for Sailor Uranus. $7.99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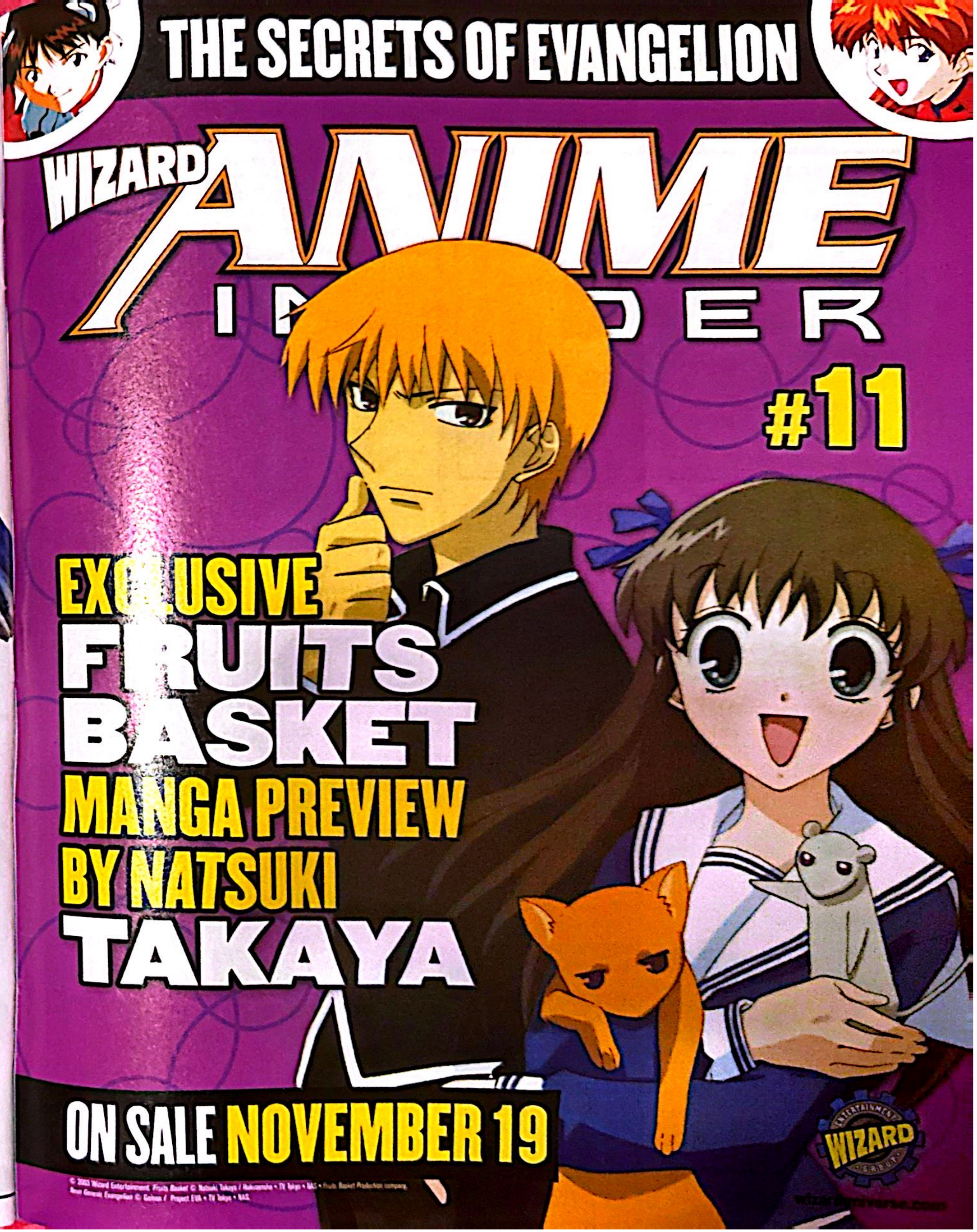
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EXCLUSIVE FRUITS BASKET MANGA PREVIEW BY NATSUKI TAKAYA
ON SALE NOVEMBER 19
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## NORTH STAR WARS

Small things are cute—especially when they're violent—which is why we adore these gashapon. For only $2.99 a pop, you get one scene of gut-busting violence starring Kenshiro, Rei, Raoh or Shin in all their hyper-violent glory.

## THANKS, JAPAN!

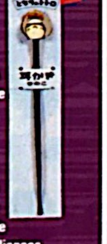
### GOODIES SO BIZARRE, YOU GOTTA GO TO ASIA FOR EM

**CHEW CHEW!**

Thomas the Tank Engine's normally static, creepy face comes to creepy life in these chopsticks. They're sure to bring smiles to the faces of children all over Asia and they're great for catching houseflies with.

**EAT 'EM AND WEEP**

These Sakuma Drops once featured in *Grave of the Fireflies* now come with Setsuko from the same movie on the front. Sure to remind you of that poor girl starving to death in a cave while you eat candy at home in your underwear.



**WAXING NOSTALGIC**

Ear wax pickers, like this one with Totoro, are actually a standard form of licensed merchandise, and there's a collector's market for them...the [illegible] wax, that is.

**PIKA CHANNEL**

Electronics manufacturer Funai brings us this wacky *Pokemon* VCR complete with Monster Ball buttons and Pikachu-shaped remote control. It's actually fully operational, and you can also train it to mutate and do battle with other household appliances.

**TIP OF THE TONGUE**

Now available at fine convenience stores everywhere: it's Beef Tongue Jerky! When you think about it, it's kind of like French kissing a dead cow. ■ Kumar Sivasubramanian

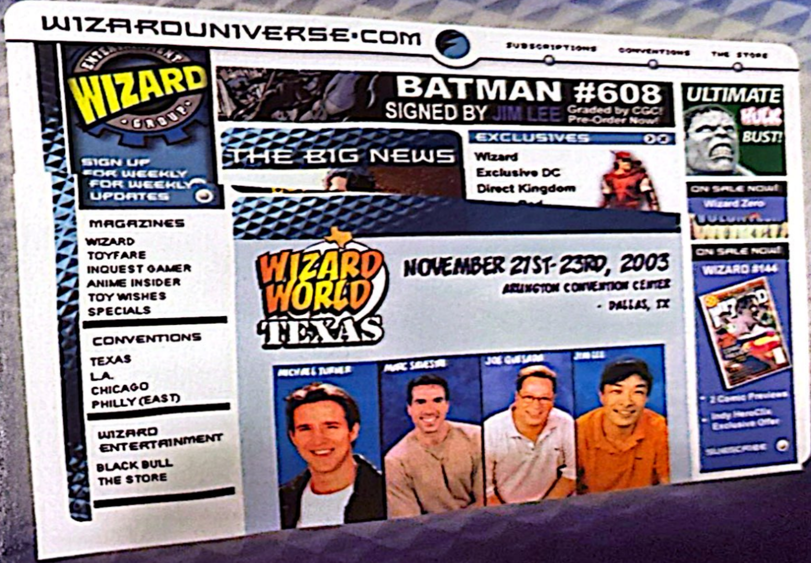
## BITE-SIZED BUTT-KICKING

Want a Gundam in your pocket? Then you'll need to pick up one of Bandai's *SD Gundam* Action Figure Kits. The newest series, running around $10 each, features an awesome array from *Gundam Wing* this time around, including tiny versions of Wing Zero Custom, Shenlong, Heavyarms, Sandrock and more! **www.bandai.com**

YOU WATCH 'EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND' LAST NIGHT?
NO.
NEVER MIND.

## COOLER THAN HECK

Not only is *Hellsing* one of the best anime and manga out there right now, it's also got some of the coolest action figures around. A new Arucard and evil priest Anderson make up Series 2's figures, featuring multiple points of articulation, for just $14.99 a pop! **www.toycom.net**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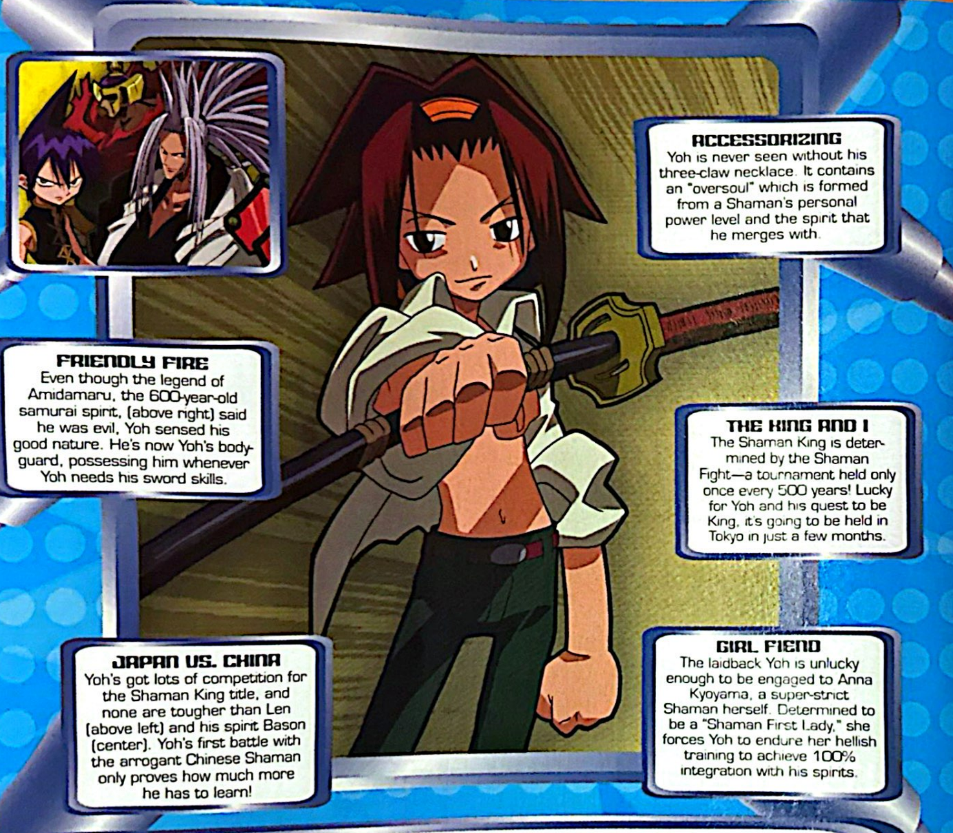
BY GAMEBOO DONG

# INSIDER PROFILE

## YOH FROM SHAMAN KING



**ACCESSORIZING**
Yoh is never seen without his three-claw necklace. It contains an "oversoul" which is formed from a Shaman's personal power level and the spirit that he merges with.

**FRIENDLY FIRE**
Even though the legend of Amidamaru, the 600-year-old samurai spirit, (above right) said he was evil, Yoh sensed his good nature. He's now Yoh's bodyguard, possessing him whenever Yoh needs his sword skills.

**THE KING AND I**
The Shaman King is determined by the Shaman Fight—a tournament held only once every 500 years! Lucky for Yoh and his quest to be King, it's going to be held in Tokyo in just a few months.

**JAPAN VS. CHINA**
Yoh's got lots of competition for the Shaman King title, and none are tougher than Len (above left) and his spirit Bason (center). Yoh's first battle with the arrogant Chinese Shaman only proves how much more he has to learn!

**GIRL FIEND**
The laidback Yoh is unlucky enough to be engaged to Anna Kyoyama, a super-strict Shaman herself. Determined to be a "Shaman First Lady," she forces Yoh to endure her hellish training to achieve 100% integration with his spirits.

**ORIGIN:** Do you see dead people? Laidback 14-year-old Yoh Asakura does, but that's because he's a Shaman—one of the few who can speak to ghosts, as well as channel the abilities of spirits into their own bodies. With the mad sword skills of his spirit partner, the samurai Amidamaru, at his call, Yoh meets and collects a wide variety of spirits, helps solve supernatural mysteries, fights nasty ghosts and evil Shamans, all with one purpose: improving his Shaman skills so he can be crowned the Shaman King! But the one thing even Amidamaru can't help him with is fending off his overzealous fiancée, Anna!

**NOW APPEARING:** Debuting in 1998, the original *Shaman King* manga by Hiroyuki Takei was an instant hit, and it's no wonder—*Shaman King* has everything. Mixing the adventure of *Yu-Gi-Oh!* and the action *of Dragon Ball Z* with a sizable dose of the supernatural, it was natural for TV, with 64 episodes, by the same producers of *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, debuting in 2001.

Such a hit had to come stateside. The first 26 episodes started airing on the Fox Box back in September, so you can catch the supernatural fun every Saturday morning at 11 a.m. And be sure to check out the manga in Viz's monthly *Shonen Jump* anthology.

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